

MLB

There are plenty of reclamation projects at spring training

[Back page](#)

**FACES**

'Captain Marvel' rockets to huge opening weekend
[Page 17](#)

**MILITARY**

Fate of US Navy vet held in Iran unclear after reported verdict
[Page 5](#)

Report: Taliban leader spent final days near American base » [Page 4](#)

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TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Trump budget proposal asks for \$8.6 billion in wall funding

BY DAMIAN PALETTA,
ERICA WERNER
AND JEFF STEIN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump released a \$4.7 trillion budget plan Monday that stands as a sharp challenge to Congress and the Democrats trying to unseat him, the first act in a multifront struggle that could consume Washington for the next 18 months.

The budget calls for increased military spending, another in a string of proposals that prompted Democrats to label the budget a nonstarter that will not win congressional support.

If lawmakers and Trump don't reach a spending agreement by the end of September, many government operations will grind to a halt, dramatically raising the possibility of another government shutdown in October.

Trump also used the budget to notify Congress he is seeking an additional \$8.6 billion to build sections of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Trump's "Budget for a Better America" also includes dozens of spending cuts and policy overhauls that frame the early stages of the debate for the 2020 election.

For example, Trump for the first time calls for cutting \$845 billion from Medicare, the popular health care program for the elderly that he had largely said he would protect.

SEE TRUMP ON PAGE 6

■ The DOD will release budgets for each service Tuesday. Follow developments at [stripes.com](#)



Brighter outlook

PHOTOS BY KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

People eat in a restaurant at a shopping mall in Baghdad on Feb. 10. For the first time in years, Iraq is not at war, and many hope that after years of bloodshed the country is starting to turn a corner.

Across Baghdad, a moment of respite and guarded hope

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

Baghdad's main commercial district has seen more bombings than its residents can count. Death visited almost daily during times of war — most horrifically, a 2015 suicide bombing that ripped through two shopping malls, killing more than 300 people.

But during the past year or so, the residents of Karrada have felt more normal than they have in decades. Streets lined with food stalls are crowded with shoppers, coffee shops and restaurants are packed until late, and the gray concrete blast walls that protected against bombings are being removed.



Iraqi security forces remove concrete blast walls in Baghdad on Feb. 3.

SEE BRIGHTER ON PAGE 3

PACIFIC

Sirens at Misawa mark 8 years since tragedy hit Japan

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Sirens rang out Monday at Misawa Air Base, home of the Air Force's 35th Fighter Wing in northeast Japan, marking the eighth anniversary of a devastating earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster that killed more than 15,000 and spurred a relief operation involving 20,000 U.S. servicemembers.

On March 11, 2011 a magnitude 9.0 earthquake set off a destructive tsunami that hit the Tohoku coast, traveling 6 miles inland in places, causing widespread destruction and the release of radioactive plumes from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

Operation Tomodachi — the U.S. effort to help Japan deal with the aftermath of the disaster — involves sending servicemembers into coastal communities to help locals deal with the destruction.

At Misawa, the closest U.S. base to the disaster zone, sirens sounded at 2:46 p.m. — marking the time that the earthquake struck — before personnel observed a moment of silence.

"We are proud to serve alongside our Japanese counterparts and always prepared to help our partners in times of need," officials said on Misawa's Facebook page.

People stationed there at the time of the disaster responded with comments about their experiences.

"It was a really difficult time, but I was really proud to see the way the base came together to support our families and our off-base communities," wrote Mike Dasher, who said he was a member of the 35th Operations Group from 2010 to 2011. Others shared photographs of troops working in the field, a Marine's radiation dosimeter, damaged cars and buildings and donated supplies.

Japanese media reported that 52,000 people who lost their homes in the disaster are still living in shelters.

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Misawa Air Base
Facebook post

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BRENNAN O'LOWNEY/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit pick up debris on April 2, 2011, during a disaster relief mission at Uranohama Port, Oshima Island, in support of Operation Tomodachi, the U.S. military assistance operation to support Japan in disaster relief following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.



Debris and wreckage is piled up on March 16, 2011, in Ofunato, Japan, after the magnitude 9.0 quake that hit Japan on March 11 caused a tsunami that destroyed anything in its path.

Jeremy Lock/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup	16
Business	15
Classified	19, 23
Comics/Crossword	22
Faces	17
Opinion	20-21
Shifting Gears	18
Sports	24-32
Weather	15

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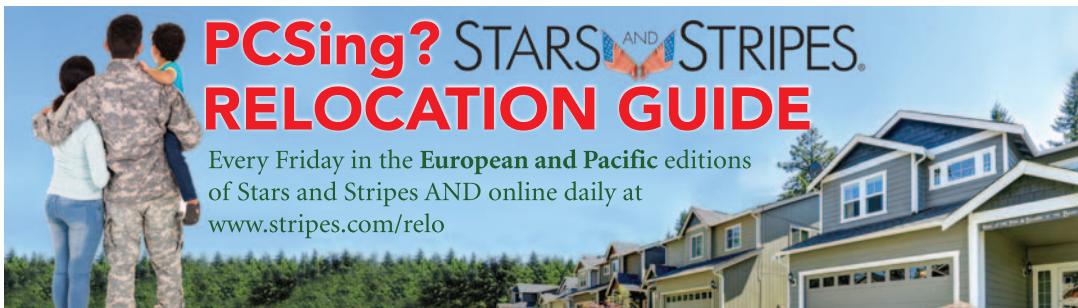
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WAR ON TERRORISM



Shops and restaurants are open late at night in Baghdad.

PHOTOS BY KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Brighter: Residents enjoy a sense of cautious confidence

FROM FRONT PAGE

"I used to go to school and come back home, nothing more," said Rusul Mohsen, 33, a middle school teacher who was seated recently at a storefront sipping coffee. "If I went to a restaurant, I would ask to sit in a corner the farthest away from any windows, fearing a car bomb explosion might shatter the glass."

For the first time in 15 years there is no major war or insurgency in Iraq, and the defeat of ISIS in late 2017 after a ruinous four-year war has given the population a moment of respite. Despite the enormous challenges ahead, there is a guarded sense of hope across the capital.

Car bomb explosions that became the norm after the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, making the Iraqi capital's name synonymous with war, have ceased — at least for now. Thousands of concrete barriers that snaked through the city as protection from suicide car bombers have been towed away in trucks, easing traffic.

Army spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool said thousands of barriers have been towed away to a plot of land on the outskirts of the city, saying they could be used in the future around Baghdad to protect against infiltration.

The Green Zone

Parts of the heavily fortified Green Zone on the west bank of the Tigris River have reopened to the public, including public access to the landmark "Victory Arch" — a 131-foot-tall arch of two swords held by bronze casts of former dictator Saddam Hussein's hands to commemorate the Iran-Iraq war.

The U.S. established the Green Zone in 2003 to secure its embassy and Iraqi government institutions. But the zone became



Children play at a park in Baghdad last month.

a symbol of the country's inequality, fueling the perception among Iraqis that their government is out of touch.

On the other side of the river, Baghdad's famous Rasheed Street, the capital's oldest street and a cultural center known for its crumbling, old Iraqi houses, has also reopened for cars and pedestrians after a 15-year closure due to security risks.

A new Central Bank headquarters, a towering waterfront building on the banks of the Tigris designed by the late Iraq-born architect Zaha Hadid, is currently under construction, expected to be completed next year.

"Baghdad feels better than it has since 2003," remarked a veteran Western diplomat in Baghdad.

Even so, the country faces massive challenges. ISIS, which is about to lose its last shred of territory in neighboring Syria, is creeping back into Iraq, stepping up insur-

gent-style attacks in areas outside Baghdad and the country's north.

Tens of thousands of people remain displaced, and much of the country is in ruins. The country is plagued by corruption, and in the oil-rich but parched south, violent riots have repeatedly broken out against living conditions.

Baghdad, an ancient metropolis of 8 million people that was once the Arab world's cultural center, is barely functional, its infrastructure crumbling. Armed militias who fought ISIS alongside the Iraqi armed forces roams the streets in what many see as the country's latest menace amid reports of kidnappings for ransom and general lawlessness. Unemployment, poverty and disenfranchised youth are widespread.

"There is a big gap between people's aspirations and the government ability to deliver," the Western diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity so he

could speak freely.

Still, many hope that after years of bloodshed, Iraq is starting to turn a corner.

Turning the corner

In Karrada, the Hadi Center — where a 2015 suicide bombing trapped men in a burning inferno for hours, killing about 300 — is full of shoppers, and youngsters fill the food court.

Asssem Gharib, owner of a pastries and ice cream shop, said that for years he used to pay someone to supervise the street outside his shop and keep cars from parking in front.

"I used to be frightened whenever a car approached, imagining it to be a suicide bomber or a car bomb. Now it's the opposite; we are happy when a car parks in front of the shop," he said.

That kind of confidence eluded most Iraqis for the past 15 years. The country has been at war, one way or another, for more than a generation, starting with the eight-year Iraq-Iran war that ended in 1988, followed by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and the subsequent military intervention by the U.S.

The worst bloodletting came with the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, which triggered an Al-Qaida-driven insurgency and sectarian violence that washed over the country, killing tens of thousands of Iraqis. Bombings reached up to 10 a day.

The violence culminated with ISIS, an Al-Qaida offshoot, seizing Iraqi cities and declaring a self-styled Islamic caliphate over large parts of Iraq and Syria. That triggered a displacement crisis unprecedented in Iraq's history. Millions fled their homes in the face of the militants' rapid advance. Others fled as Iraqi forces, backed by the U.S. and Iran, battled back, ultimately reclaiming the last town in late 2017.

WAR ON TERRORISM

Report: Taliban leader died near US base in Afghanistan

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban have confirmed that their shadowy founder died just a few miles from an American base in Afghanistan — and not in Pakistan as generally believed — even as the Kabul government rejected the claim, which is at the center of a new report from a New York-based research center.

Experts and intelligence analysts have long believed Mullah Mohammad Omar fled to Pakistan after the U.S. invaded Afghanistan in 2001. From there, according to the consensus view, he at some level directed Taliban operations until his death in 2013.

But the Taliban's one-eyed leader may have actually remained in Afghanistan and relinquished direct command of the group, according to the report.

The report's author, long-time Afghanistan researcher Bettie Dam, relied on interviews with Mullah Omar's bodyguard as well as members of the Taliban and Afghan security agencies, she wrote.

The report was published over the weekend by the Zomia Center,

a research group affiliated with New America, a nonpartisan think tank in Washington.

Mullah Omar gave up control of the Taliban within days of their defeat and went into hermitic isolation in rural Kabul, an insurgent-friendly province on Afghanistan's southern border with Pakistan. At various points, he lived in houses just miles away from forward operating bases Lagman and Wolverine, said the report, titled "The Secret Life of Mullah Omar."

Mullah Omar did not trust Pakistan, and would not go there even for medical help, it said.

Dam's book about her own efforts to track down Mullah Omar, "Searching for an Enemy," was published in Dutch in February.

In the Zomia Center report, she disputes the U.S. narrative that Mullah Omar actively commanded Taliban forces while co-operating with al-Qaeda militants in Pakistan.

The mullah had almost no interaction with other people until his death except for a few scares in which American troops failed to find his hidden room, the report said.

It noted that The New York Times and Politico had also re-

ported on speculations that Mullah Omar had died in Afghanistan.

The report has received mixed reactions in Kabul, where officials have long blamed Islamabad for insecurity in the region.

A former high-ranking member of the Taliban said he has not read the report but its findings fit what he heard.

"Mullah Omar did not die in Pakistan," said Hakim Mujahid, member of High Peace Council of Afghanistan and former Taliban representative to the United Nations during their regime. "He suffered somehow but he didn't go anywhere out of the country and die there."

The Taliban founder didn't go to any other country "for a single day," the Taliban said in a statement Monday.

Members of the government in Kabul have rejected the report's claims.

"We strongly reject this delusional claim & we see it as an effort to create & build an identity for the Taliban and their foreign backers," presidential spokesman Haroon Chakhan surai said on Twitter. "We have sufficient evidence which shows he (Mullah Omar) lived & died in #Pakistan."



In this undated image, Mullah Mohammad Omar is seen in a wanted poster. A new report claims the Taliban's founder died near an American base in Afghanistan and not in Pakistan.

terrorism record.

The Taliban founder's hidden life in Afghanistan, however, suggests a staggering U.S. intelligence failure regarding the group with whom it is now negotiating an end to its 17-year war, the report's author said.

"Remarkably little is known about the men on the U.S. side of the border, including its deadly Haqqani network, and has made foreign aid to the country contingent on a crackdown."

Mullah Omar's successor was killed on the Pakistani side of the border in a 2016 drone strike, and last year Washington canceled about \$300 million in aid after President Donald Trump criticized Islamabad for its counter-

terrorism record.

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US-backed forces make limited advance into ISIS pocket

By PHILIP ISSA
Associated Press

BAGHOUSZ, Syria — U.S.-backed Syrian forces made slow advances Monday into the edges of the last village held by Islamic State, battling militants holed up in underground tunnels, a spokesman for the force said.

The battle opened Sunday evening with large explosions and mushroom clouds rising into the air over Baghouz, on the Euphrates River in eastern Syria, as the Syrian Democratic Forces battered the village with artillery and gunfire, hitting an ISIS ammunition dump.

On Monday morning, the thuds of renewed artillery and heavy weapons fire could be heard. An airstrike hit the ISIS-held pocket



U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces fighters walk through a tent encampment that had been occupied by Islamic State militants in Baghouz, Syria, on Monday.

around noon.

Some 500 ISIS fighters are believed to be still in the territory,

along with possibly 3,000 to 4,000 civilians, including women and children — mainly family mem-

bers who remained after thousands of civilians streamed out of Baghouz in the past week during pauses in the fighting.

SDF fighters captured an arms depot and moved toward the tent settlement on the edge of Baghouz. Mustafa Bali, of the Kurdish-led SDF said in a tweet. He said dozens of ISIS fighters had been killed, and that one SDF fighter was killed and four wounded.

The U.S.-led coalition carried out 11 airstrikes, destroying depots, fortifications and vehicles, and four ISIS militants blew up explosives vests in attempted suicide attacks on SDF positions, damaging a minesweeper, Bali wrote.

The tent camp had been home for many of the thousands of ci-

vilians who had been holed up in Baghouz for weeks. On Monday, an AP team was able to see a part of the camp that had been abandoned earlier. Many tents were damaged and burned, some of them set up over empty trenches and foxholes.

"The Associated Press viewed it from a house captured by the SDF that ISIS appeared to have used as a clinic. Medical equipment stood in place still wrapped in its plastic, as well as a microscope still in its box."

The SDF vowed in a statement Monday that operations against ISIS "will continue until we totally wipe them out," saying SDF fighters had made "tangible progress" since Sunday, with 37 militants killed and five SDF fighters wounded.

Clashes erupt in Yemen's key port city following cease-fire

Associated Press

SANA'A, Yemen — Fighting erupted in Yemen's key port city of Hodeida on Sunday, the first significant clashes since warring sides agreed to a U.N.-brokered cease-fire deal in December, security officials and eyewitnesses said.

Fires burned on the main front lines in the city's east and south, while exchanges of artillery fire shook buildings in combat that broke out overnight, they said. Both the Shiite Houthi rebels who hold the city

and the government-backed troops who oppose them have been seen erecting barriques and digging defensive trenches.

"All night long, we hear the loud roar of machine guns and artillery, which had been silent for the past two weeks," said resident Ahmed Nasser, adding that he was worried for relatives who had returned to the July 7 neighborhood on the city's eastern front.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to brief journalists, while witnesses did so for fear of

their safety. Ambulances were heard after shelling hit residential neighborhoods, but it was unclear what casualties had resulted.

The fighting comes days after the internationally recognized Yemeni government, along with allies Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, accused the Houthi rebel foes of breaking the cease-fire and refusing to withdraw their forces from the city in line with the December agreement.

Under the agreement, local authorities and police were to run the city and its three

ports under U.N. supervision after all sides pulled out their fighters. Both sides also agreed on a prisoner exchange, but neither of the deals have yet to be implemented.

Yemen's government has been battling the rebels since 2014, when the Houthis swept down from the north and seized the capital, Sanaa. A Saudi-led coalition entered the war on the side of the government in March 2015. The stalemates conflict has killed tens of thousands of people and raised fears of famine.

MILITARY

Report: Verdict issued on Navy vet in Iran

BY AMIR VAHDAT

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's judiciary has delivered a verdict against U.S. Navy veteran Michael White, who was detained last July in Iran, but there is no information as to what the ruling contained, a semi-official news agency reported Monday.

A prosecutor in the northeastern city of Mashhad, Gholamali Sadeghi, was quoted as saying by the Tasnim news agency that the "verdict has been issued" against White and that he faced unspecified security charges.

Sadeghi's remarks counter a February statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, which said White faces no security or espionage charge. There was no immediate explanation on the discrepancies.

The report came as Iran's new hard-line judiciary chief, Ebrahim Raisi, took office.

White, who has been held in Mashhad, is the first American known to be detained since Donald Trump became president. Trump has pursued a maximalist campaign against Tehran that includes America's withdrawal

from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers. Iran has in the past detained Westerners and dual nationals to use them as leverage in negotiations.

White's family says he traveled to Iran to visit his girlfriend — the two met online — and was arbitrarily detained. Joanne White, the detainee's mother, said in January that he was undergoing cancer treatment and that she feared he would not survive prolonged detention.

At least five other American citizens are being held in Iran, including businessman Baquer

Namazi, 81, who has been held for more than two years and has been diagnosed with epilepsy.

Both Baquer Namazi and his son, Siamak Namazi, also a dual national who has been held for more than three years, are serving a 10-year sentence after they were convicted of collaborating with a hostile power.

Iranian-American art dealer Karan Vafadari and his Iranian wife, Afarin Neysari, received 27-year and 16-year prison sentences, respectively.

Chinese-American graduate student Xiyue Wang was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Also in an Iranian prison is Nizar Zakkia, a permanent U.S. resident from Lebanon who advocated for internet freedom and has done work for the U.S. government.

He was sentenced to 10 years on espionage-related charges.

Former FBI agent Robert Levinson, who vanished in Iran in 2007 while on an unauthorized CIA mission, remains missing as well.

Iran says that Levinson is not in the country and that it has no further information about him, but his family holds Tehran responsible for his disappearance.

A new chapter awaits former chemical weapons depot in Ore.

BY JOHN NOTARIANNI

Oregon Public Broadcasting

HERMISTON, Ore. — The giant metal lock is nearly rusted shut on bunker A-203 at the Umatilla Chemical Depot in northeastern Oregon. Once we're able to pry it loose and open the 10-foot-tall concrete door, we're walking into a literal time capsule.

Inside the cavernous room, we find boxes and boxes of sealed U.S. Army biscuits, toilet paper, can openers and potable water. One box dates back to January 1964.

A-903 is only one of a thousand identical bunkers sprawling in every direction as far as the eye can see at the depot. The rolling hills of the bunkers can be seen for miles from Interstate 84. The entire site covers nearly 20 square miles; for comparison, that's about the size of the central Oregon city of Bend.

The depot was built in the ramp-up to World War II. For nearly 50 years, 7 million pounds of deadly chemical weapons such as sarin, mustard gas and VX nerve agent were stored here.

Bill Elfering is an Umatilla County commissioner and member of the Columbia Development Authority, the regional board working with the U.S. military to transfer the depot back to local control. He refers to the endless rows of bunkers as "igloos," a strangely cute name for rooms built to house weapons of war. As we tour the site, Elfering points out how they were built in staggered rows.

"There was a concern that one might set the whole thing off and it would be like a string of firecrackers on the Fourth of July," he said. "All of a sudden it just went 'pop, pop, pop.'"

The staggered design was proven to work in 1944 when one of the igloos did explode, killing six people. At the time, the depot's administrators were only able to tell who had been killed in the blast by having everyone on site clock out after the explosion and then tracking which time cards were left.

"I think the earth would still be shaking if they were all to go off," Elfering said.

A time-consuming transition

It's been years since weapons were actually stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. A 1993 United Nations resolution banned all use and storage of chemical weapons. In 2004, a massive furnace was built on the property, and all of the weapons were incinerated. The depot officially closed in 2012.

The property was supposed to return to local control in 2015, but even today, much of the land remains in the hands of the military.

That could be about to change. After years of negotiations, locals are cautiously optimistic that much of the depot's land will soon be back in local control.

Dr. David Drotzman is the mayor of the nearby town of Hermiston. Hundreds of people from the neighboring community worked at the depot when it was in operation, and a lot of those jobs are gone.

"Were those some good paying jobs? Absolutely," he said. "And have they been replaced with the same level of jobs? Maybe, maybe not."

He's eager to see new development.

"Everybody's wish list is Costco. When can we get a Costco out there?" he said. "I think any employer that provides an opportunity for good paying — above you know the state average wages."

The plan to redevelop the depot has several parts. The first phase, converting a portion of the land to a National Guard training center, is well underway. Portions of the land will also be designated as a large nature preserve.

But Elfering says the biggest economic boon could come from developing two stretches of industrial land. The depot lies at the intersection of interstates 84 and 82, giving it great potential as a transit hub.

"You go 185 miles or 180 miles to the west, and you're in Portland," Elfering said. "You go a couple hundred miles to the northwest, you're in Seattle. You go a couple hundred miles to the northeast, you're in Spokane. If you go to the southwest, you're in Boise."

Drotzman said that type of development could provide a huge boost to his community.

"Most of those people will be either living here or doing business here, buying their groceries or doing their doctor visit with us," he said. "So it will have a significant impact, and we need to be prepared. We want to start that process, and so that's where the frustration comes from."

While the years of delays have been frustrating to many locals, another group has been waiting much longer to return to the site.

Chuck Sams is with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation. The depot runs through his nation's hunting and gathering lands, including the religiously significant Coyote Coulee. He's eager to see the land return to the tribes so they can begin rehabilitating it.

"There's been wildfires that have gone through there," he said. "It's burnt the shrub-steppe habitat. So there's a lot of cheatgrass and foreign species. We want to reclaim the land and put more natural species in there."

Elfering said the number of stakeholders has made what initially looked like a straightforward process much more cumbersome.

Each group has had its own specific interests at heart: protecting natural areas, preserving sacred lands, providing security for military assets and making sure the economic benefits are evenly distributed. Those competing interests have occasionally led to gridlock. But, Elfering said the coalition is closer than ever to an agreement.

"We need one more piece of paper, maybe two more pieces of paper that say it meets their objectives," he said.

Until then, the 1,000 bunkers at the Umatilla Chemical Depot remain empty — aside from the occasional stash of vintage army supplies.



An inspector checks missiles containing sarin gas for leaks in a bunker at the Umatilla Chemical Depot in Hermiston, Ore. The depot officially closed in 2012 and, after years of negotiations, locals are hopeful that much of its land soon will be back in local control.

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NATION

Milwaukee to host Dems' 2020 convention

Site selection reflects party's focus on region that sent Trump to White House

By BILL BARROW,
IVAN MORENO
AND SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Democrats selected Milwaukee to host their 2020 national convention Monday, setting up the party's 2020 standard-bearer to accept the presidential nomination in the heart of the old industrial belt that delivered Donald Trump to the White House.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez chose Milwaukee over Houston and Miami after deliberations lingered longer than party leaders or officials from the three finalist cities had expected.

The convention is scheduled for

'We are ready to reinvest in the Midwest.'

Mandela Barnes
Wisconsin lieutenant governor

July 13-16, 2020.

It will be the first time in more than a century that Democrats will be in a Midwest city other than Chicago to nominate their presidential candidate. Instead, the political spotlight will shine for a week on a metro area of about 1.6 million people.

Once dubbed "The Machine Shop of the World," the famously working-class city also is known for its long love affair with beer and as the birthplace of Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Republicans are set to gather in Charlotte, the largest city in battleground North Carolina, on Aug. 24-27, 2020.

Democrats see plenty of symbolism in Milwaukee after a bitter 2016 election defined by Hillary Clinton being nearly swept in what her campaign aides had confidently called a "Blue Wall" across the upper Midwest and Great Lakes region. That band of states twice sided with President Barack Obama, but Clinton held only Minnesota, ceding

Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania — a combined 64 of the necessary 270 electoral votes — as white working-class voters flock to Trump.

The president won Wisconsin and its 10 electoral votes by about 23,000 votes out of almost 3 million cast, the first time since 1984 that Republicans claimed the state in a presidential election. Afterward, Clinton took withering criticism for not once visiting Wisconsin as a general election candidate.

Since then, Wisconsin voters have re-elected Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin, ousted Republican Gov. Scott Walker in favor of Democrat Tony Evers and elected the state's first black lieutenant governor, Mandela Barnes.

Wisconsin Democrats pointed to those midterm election results as they lobbied Perez and DNC officials, and presidential candidates already are paying attention. Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar came to Wisconsin in one of her first trips as a declared candidate.

"A lot of people feel that we lost (in 2016) because this area had been ignored — whether it's from a political standpoint or whether it's from a governing standpoint," said Barnes, one of the members of the convention bid committee.

Holding the convention in Milwaukee, Barnes added, says "we are ready to reinvest in the Midwest, that the Midwest matters again."

Trump: New budget forecasts a \$1 trillion increase in deficit

FROM FRONT PAGE

His budget would also propose a major overhaul of Medicaid, the health care program for low-income Americans run jointly with states, by turning more power over to states. This would cut spending by \$241 billion over 10 years.

Other agencies, particularly the Environmental Protection Agency, State Department, Transportation Department, and Interior Department, would see their budgets severely reduced.

"With severe cuts to essential programs and services that would leave our nation less safe and secure, the Trump budget is as dangerous as it is predictable. It has no chance in the House," House Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth, D-Ky., said ahead of the document's release.

Trump's GOP allies received the budget plan with a lukewarm embrace.

"The president's annual budget proposal is the first step in the federal budget process and will allow us to consider how his priorities align with the priorities of Congress," said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi, R-Wyo. "I look forward to working with my colleagues and the president to curb federal overspending and help bring our deficits and debt under control."

Over the next 10 years the budget would spend \$56 trillion.

More broadly, Trump's budget would impose mandatory work requirements for millions of people who receive welfare assistance while dramatically increasing the defense budget to \$750 billion next year, a 5 percent increase from 2019.

Trump and other Republicans have said the federal budget is full of waste and bloat and that many federal agencies could still perform their functions with less taxpayer assistance. Even though they have proposed budget cuts before, only to be rejected by Congress, his top advisers want to dig in on the cuts this year, convinced Americans will support them.

Still, according to Trump's budget, the spending cuts would do little to reduce what is shaping up to be a colossal deficit in the next several years. The budget would spend much more money than it brings in through revenue, and that gap is called the deficit.

The budget foresees a \$1.1 trillion deficit in 2019, 2020 and 2021, and a \$1 trillion deficit in 2022.



PHOTOS BY J. SCOTT APPLWHITE/AP

Office of Management and Budget staff deliver President Donald Trump's 2020 budget outline to the House Budget Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday.

'With severe cuts to essential programs and services that would leave our nation less safe and secure ... [the Trump budget] has no chance in the House.'

John Yarmuth
House budget chairman



House Budget Committee Chair John Yarmuth, D-Ky., walks through the Capitol in Washington on Monday morning as Trump's 2020 budget is delivered to his committee.

These deficits will add to the existing \$22 trillion debt and put further strain on the budget. For example, the White House now projects the government will spend \$482 billion on interest payments for the debt next year, more than the entire budget for Medicaid, which provides health care benefits for millions of people.

Republicans have long called for taking

steps that shrink — or even eliminate — the deficit, and putting forward a plan that would create \$4.3 trillion in new debt over four years could give Democrats fresh tar-

gets on the campaign trail.

There is a crowded field of Democrats seeking to win their party's primary to challenge Trump next November. While Trump has called for boosting the military, cutting taxes and cutting the budgets of domestic agencies and social welfare programs, many of the Democrats have proposed something much different.

Several have called for raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans, expanding access to Medicare and providing more benefits that help pay for college.

White House officials believe Trump's economic agenda has proven very successful so far, leading to job growth, higher wages and economic growth. But critics have alleged that he achieved that in part through huge levels of fiscal stimulus, including tax cuts and spending increases, that have widened the deficit and adding several trillion dollars to the government's debt.

The budget does reflect the changing nature of Trump's agenda since taking office.

He has continued to try to pump more money into the military and border security programs, and the budget provides funding for the creation of a "Space Force" and a U.S. Space Command, ideas Trump has personally pushed even while he ran into some resistance from military leaders and congressional Republicans.

While his Democratic rivals for the White House next year ramp up their attacks on his policy agenda, Democrats in Congress are planning to challenge him in the coming months on his budget plan. In addition to the Sept. 30, 2019, deadline to reach a spending agreement, lawmakers believe they will also need to reach an agreement to raise the debt ceiling around that time.

The debt ceiling is a borrowing cap established by Congress, and it prohibits the Treasury Department from issuing more debt. The government is bumping up against the debt limit now, and the Treasury Department has begun emergency steps to buy more time so Congress can eventually vote to raise it. Several lawmakers have said they expect the debt ceiling to be raised as part of a broader budget deal this summer or fall.

But if budget talks bog down later this year amid a fight over border wall funding, it could force lawmakers to rethink this timeline and their approach.

NATION



Jack Donson, president of My Federal Prison Consultant, walks outside a Manhattan courthouse on March 1 in New York. Donson advocates greater scrutiny of the prison consultant industry.

Indictments spotlight prison rehab scams

By DAVE COLLINS
Associated Press

It's a tip that has been passed onto convicts for years: On your way to federal prison, say you have a substance abuse problem, and you could qualify for a treatment program that knocks up to a year off your sentence.

Federal prosecutors have long suspected abuses in the program, which has enrolled a deep list of high-profile convicts. Recently, a grand jury in Connecticut indicted three people accused of coaching ineligible convicts on how to get into the Residential Drug Abuse Program, or RDAP, by telling them to show up to prison intoxicated and fake withdrawal symptoms. The charges are among the first filed against prison consultants involving the program.

The case has put a spotlight on the unregulated world of prison consulting, in which some ex-convicts and former prison employees charge thousands of dollars for their inside knowledge to help people prepare for life behind bars. Some consultants say there has been wrongdoing in the industry for decades, including encouraging clients to scam their way into the rehab program.

The small industry now is "totally the Wild West," said Jack Donson, president of New York-based My Federal Prison Consultant and a retired federal Bureau of Prisons employee.

"I hope it brings light to things."

he said, referring to the Connecticut case. "I hope it gives people ... pause to not cross that line to illegitimate and unethical conduct."

Completing the nine-month, 500-hour treatment program for nonviolent offenders is one of only a few ways inmates can get their sentences reduced. About 15,600 inmates — nearly 10 percent of the current federal prison population — participated in the program last year, and thousands more are on waiting lists. To get in, convicts must present evidence they had substance abuse or addiction problems during the year prior to their arrest. Upon completion, their sentences can be reduced and they can spend the last six months of their sentence in a halfway house.

Christopher Mattei, a former federal prosecutor in Connecticut, said the U.S. attorney's office increasingly saw white-collar convicts make use of the program.

"It undermines the public's confidence that all people when they go before a court for sentencing will be treated fairly. People who know how to game the system know how to get the benefits, whereas people who are struggling with addiction don't know all the angles to play," Mattei said.

Donson and other consultants say more monitoring of the industry and prosecutions would help deter misconduct.

Attorney says tape may show R. Kelly sex abuse

By STEPHEN R. GROVES
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A man who said he was cleaning out an old videotape collection found what he thought was a recording of R&B singer R. Kelly in concert but instead turned out to show a man who appeared to be Kelly sexually abusing girls, he and his attorney said Sunday.

The man then turned the tape over to law enforcement, according to attorney Gloria Allred. She and her client, Gary Dennis, would not discuss the specifics of the tape during a news conference in New York. But Allred said it appears to show a separate incident from the 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse that Kelly faces in Chicago, though she acknowledged she could not be "100 percent certain" that the man in the tape is Kelly.

Steve Greenberg, an attorney for Kelly, noted that lack of certainty.

"The doubt here is self-evident, with reporting that the man on the tape kinda, sorta looks like R. Kelly," Greenberg said Sunday in an email. "That doesn't make it him. It is not him."

The lawyer also said Kelly "denies that he is on any tape with underaged girls."

"It is obviously now just open season on R. Kelly," Greenberg said.

Dennis, an assistant at a nurs-



Gary Dennis, seated with attorney Gloria Allred, speaks at a press conference on Saturday in New York announcing a videotape said to present further evidence of wrongdoing by recording artist R. Kelly.

girls."

"I was disgusted and horrified when I saw that," Dennis said.

Allred said they assume the girls in the video were underage because they didn't appear to have developed.

The charges Kelly faces in Chicago are in connection with three girls and one woman. Prosecutors have said they have video of Kelly sexually abusing one of the girls.

Allred encouraged anyone who was in possession of similar tapes to come forward, either to her or to law enforcement.

Banks bow out of immigrant detentions

By TRACY JAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" immigration policies are forcing corporate America into a tricky calculus: Embrace the business opportunities presented by the expanded immigration detention regime or heed the backlash from the public and even their own employees.

Last week, JPMorgan Chase, the nation's largest bank, became the latest major corporation to distance itself from Trump's immigration policies, concluding that its investments in private detention centers conflicted with its broader business strategy.

"We will no longer bank the private prison industry," said spokesman Andrew Gray in a statement.

The announcement follows similar moves by Wells Fargo and U.S. Bank, which told The Washington Post that they are in the process of quietly divesting from the private detention sector.

Activists, who waged a two-year campaign against JPMorgan's investments, hope that mounting public pressure will prod other

financial giants, such as Bank of America, to follow suit. But they acknowledge that it's much harder to persuade tech firms such as Amazon, Palantir and Microsoft to withdraw from lucrative federal contracts with agencies charged with mass surveillance and deportation.

"It will all boil down at the end of the day to whether or not the profit or potential profit is worth the risk, including public exposure," said Charles Geisst, an economics and finance professor at Manhattan College.

JPMorgan, amid an aggressive expansion of its retail presence, concluded that it was not. The bank's decision to divest from private prison operators CoreCivic and GEO Group, first reported by Reuters, came after a dogged effort by immigrant rights groups.

Protesters picked JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon's Manhattan apartment with a mariachi band and, at another demonstration, a sound system blasting recorded cries of separated immigrant children begging for their parents.

They disrupted shareholder meetings and delivered petitions imploring the bank to "break up

with private prison companies."

JPMorgan ultimately determined that the financial and reputational risks weren't worth the investment.

"They want to build a customer base by opening more branches," said Stephen Lerner, a community organizer and fellow at Georgetown University's Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor. "Investing in private prisons doesn't help them in immigrant communities. The mood of the country is that the vast majority of people don't support having families interned or having children separated from their families."

Trump's immigration policies are largely unpopular with the general public but well-received among his fellow Republicans, according to national polls. In a Quinnipiac poll last week, 58 percent of voters disapproved of Trump's handling of immigration issues while 40 percent approved.

Other banks are backing away from financing private prisons, where the number of immigrant detainees is increasing under the Trump administration.

NATION

Church that was shelter holds first service since storm

Ala. parish became a center for help and grieving after tornado killed 23

Associated Press

BEAUREGARD, Ala. — The pastor of a church that became a center for shelter, help and grieving when a tornado killed 23 people in eastern Alabama said in his first Sunday service after the storm that the Lord has reached out his hand to the community.

Imperfect things like tornadoes and other tragedies happen because we live in an imperfect world, Providence Baptist Church Pastor Rusty Sowell said Sunday.

His sermon focused on the Bible verse Isaiah 41:13: "For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."

Nearly 100 people safely rode out the March 3 storm in the church, which then became a center for donations and the place where Sowell and the county coroner told families they had lost loved ones.

On Sunday, 23 crosses sat outside the country church, one for each victim of the huge EF4 tornado that roared through Beauregard a few hours after last Sunday's services with 170 mph winds and a path nearly a mile wide.

As she sat in a pew Sunday, Cindy Samford said all her emotions hit her suddenly. She lost her home in the storm hours after last week's service.

"I'm heartbroken by the loss of lives and the devastation of it all. Today in church was a confirmation-

tion of faith that God was watching over us. God has his hands on us," Samford said.

President Donald Trump visited the church Friday as he looked at the damage, signing Bibles for some victims there seeking help.

Sowell said it was easy to speak badly about the president and wondered if

some of those who criticized Trump for the signings owned Bibles.

"My first thought is if that is what you are worried about, bring your raggedy self down here to our corner of the world and get to work," Sowell said to applause from the packed congregation. "The ones that are running their mouths are not down here getting their hand dirty, walking alongside the walking wounded."

But most of Sowell's sermon was how God reaches out his hand in times of need. He talked about how the church built a second building across the street with showers, a full kitchen and a large gathering space after the area was devastated by Hurricane Opal in 1995 and could not get help.

That building became the cen-

'Church always helps, but today it was a special blessing.'

Carolyn Thrower
parishioner

ter of the relief efforts after the tornado.

"This is why this building is here," Sowell said. "And God knew."

Carolyn Thrower said being at Providence Baptist on Sunday was awe-inspiring, knowing they were helping to show God's love



PHOTOS BY VASHA HUNT/AP

Above: Senior Pastor Rusty Sowell gives a sermon Sunday at Providence Baptist Church in Beauregard, Ala. Sunday church services were a step toward normalcy as the community continues to recover following deadly tornadoes that hit the area. Below, from left: Kathi Pierce, Joyce Ross and Tammy Johnson gather food packages for volunteers and victims of the March 3 tornadoes.



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NATION

Kan. pushes to promote Bob Dole to Army colonel

By SHERMAN SMITH

The Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal

Members of the Kansas delegation to Congress are working to advance the decorated military career of Bob Dole, the former U.S. senator who was badly wounded as a soldier in World War II.

The U.S. Senate last week passed legislation sponsored by Sen. Pat Roberts and Sen. Jerry Moran that would promote the 95-year-old from captain to colonel in the Army.

U.S. Rep. Roger Marshall, from Kansas' 1st District, is pushing for the bill to gain traction in the House.

"I am humbled to know that my friends in the Kansas delegation made it a priority to honor me in this way," Dole said. "I was certainly proud to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II — alongside many heroes who never returned to American soil. To me personally, this legislation is a shared honor."

Dole joined the Army Enlisted Reserve Corps in 1942 and was called to active duty the following year. He was deployed to Italy as



MEREDITH TIBBETTS/Stars And Stripes

Members of Congress from Kansas are pushing legislation to promote WWII veteran and former Sen. Bob Dole, shown at an event in Washington in November, from U.S. Army captain to colonel.

an infantry lieutenant in the 10th Mountain Division, and he was wounded in 1945 when German machine-gun fire struck him in the upper back and right arm.

Dole was cited for acts of heroism under fire and received two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star. His injuries left him with numbness in his left arm and limited mobility in his right arm, which he minimized in public by holding a pen in his right hand.

"Bob Dole is an American hero and Kansas' favorite son," Roberts said. "I'm proud my colleagues in the Senate acted quickly to pass this important legislation, which will give Senator Dole the military promotion he has earned during his decades of service to our country."

Dole won election to the Kan-

sas Legislature in 1950 and became the Russell County attorney two years later. He represented Kansas in the U.S. House from 1961 to 1969, then spent the next 27 years in the U.S. Senate. He stepped down in 1996 when he became the Republican nominee for president.

In Congress, he cosponsored bills to improve veterans benefits, improve accountability for missing members of the Armed Forces and recognize female veterans, among other initiatives.

"I can think of no one more worthy of an honorary promotion to the rank of colonel in the United States Army than Senator Bob Dole, who has for decades served our country with the utmost distinction," Moran said.

Vet notified of cancer 10 months after test

By KATIE MOORE

The Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal

An inspection at the Leavenworth VA Medical Center found that a patient with a possible malignancy result was notified by a physician 288 days after the test was completed.

Ten months after the initial CT scan, the patient was diagnosed with stage three lung cancer with the possibility of metastatic disease. The patient died in summer 2017, according to the Office of the Inspector General's report.

The inspection was initiated after an individual made an allegation in November 2017 about delays in a lung cancer diagnosis and the reporting of an abnormal radiology test.

The complainant also said a provider falsely documented the patient initially wasn't willing to have the test conducted. The OIG substantiated the claims, finding that the patient never refused the test or intervention.

Three subsequent allegations were unsubstantiated.

The OIG conducted a site visit on June 4-7, 2018.

The agency determined the patient's records weren't assigned the appropriate code for

follow-up.

Officials examined cases with the follow-up notification and found that 45 out of 249 veterans — or 18 percent — didn't receive communication of the results within the required time frame or that the results weren't documented in their electronic health records. The OIG concluded there was evidence of ongoing care and the patients didn't suffer adverse outcomes because of the delays.

According to the VA's policy, test results requiring action must be communicated in seven calendar days. Normal results must be communicated within 14 days.

The inspection also found radiologists didn't receive training on new diagnostic codes or software that generates notifications.

Five recommendations were issued on training, timely communication and adherence to other VA policies.

Joe Burks, spokesman for VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System, said the Leavenworth hospital has undergone changes to simplify diagnostic coding, train employees and update their policies to prevent similar issues in the future.

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NATION

Donor claimed she could offer access to Trump, Fla. club

Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — A company run by a donor to President Donald Trump claimed it could provide Chinese clients with a chance to mingle and take photos with the president, along with access to his private club in Palm Beach.

It remains unclear how much Li Yang charged for the services and whether she was ever hired to provide them.

The company's claims and other eyebrow-raising activity, first reported by The Miami Herald and Mother Jones, mark the latest in a litany of complications and ethical issues stemming from Trump continuing to own and operate a private club where dues-paying members and their guests

rub shoulders with the president and his family, friends, White House staff and members of his Cabinet.

The Associated Press has previously reported that aides who accompany the president on frequent trips to the club are always on alert for club members and guests with nearly unlimited access who like to buttonhole the president.

GY US Investments LLC, a company Yang registered in 2017, according to Florida state documents, describes itself on a now-defunct, mostly Chinese website as an international business consulting firm. The firm "provides public relations services to assist businesses in America to establish and expand their brand image



SUSAN WALSH/AP

A donor to President Donald Trump claimed she could provide access to the president's Mar-a-Lago estate, above, in Palm Beach, Fla.

in the modern Chinese marketplace," according to a translation of the page accessed through an internet archive service.

That has included, the website claims, access to presidential dinners and roundtables, White House events, photo opportunities and "VIP" activities including the "opportunity to interact with the president, the Minister of Commerce and other political figures."

The site also featured numerous photographs, including a picture of Trump's Mar-a-Lago club and photographs of Yang with Trump, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Transportation Secretary

Elaine Chao and former White House aide Sebastian Gorka.

Yang is described on the website as the company's "Founder CEO," as well as a member of a "Presidential Fundraising Committee" and a "presidential club member."

Yang and the company did not respond to messages seeking comment, nor did the Trump Organization, Mar-a-Lago club or the Republican National Committee.

The Herald on Friday also published a photo of Yang with Trump at a Super Bowl party at his West Palm Beach country club and reported on the link between Yang and the spa where New England

Patriots owner Robert Kraft was charged with soliciting prostitution. Yang was a former owner of the spa.

Yang wasn't charged in a multi-agency anti-human trafficking operation that resulted in 25 arrests, including Kraft's, and shut down 10 Asian day spas in South Florida last month.

None of the spas is registered to Yang or her family. She sold the Jupiter spa to Hua Zhang around 2013. Zhang was charged with racketeering and running a house of prostitution and has pleaded not guilty.

Yang's family still owns several South Florida spas.

Schiff says Mueller should demand Trump testimony

By KAROUN DEMIRJIAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee said Sunday that special counsel Robert Mueller was making a "mistake" by not demanding that President Donald Trump testify as part of his investigation, which many accounts may soon be nearing its end.

Speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press," Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., acknowledged that it might be expedient for Mueller to avoid subpoenaing Trump's testimony because the president could fight it and Mueller's new boss, Attorney General William Barr, might oppose such a move.

"But I do think, ultimately, it's a mistake because probably the best way to get the truth would be to put the president under oath," Schiff said. "As he's made plain in the past, he feels it's perfectly fine to lie to the public. After all, he has said, 'It's not like I'm talking before a magistrate.' Well, maybe he should talk before a magistrate."

Schiff also said he is deferring to Mueller on whether Erik Prince, a former Navy SEAL who created the controversial Blackwater security company, lied to Congress about his involvement in the Trump campaign.

The House Intelligence Committee spoke with Prince in 2017 about his meeting in January that year with Kirill Dmitriev, head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund. The meeting was organized by the United Arab Emirates. Prince presented the meeting to congressional investigators as a series of coincidences and insisted to the committee that he played no formal or informal role in Trump's campaign or transition team.

But Prince admitted during an interview with Al Jazeera last week to participating in an August 2016 meeting at Trump Tower.

He never disclosed that to the House Intelligence Committee, and the admission has revived suspicions that Prince lied to Congress under penalty of perjury.

In the Al Jazeera interview, Prince insisted that he disclosed the August meeting to investigators, despite no mention of it in the public transcript — something Prince explained by suggesting the transcript must be wrong.

"He's certainly not telling the truth in that interview," Schiff said. "There's nothing wrong with our transcript.... He did not disclose that meeting to our committee. So his, you know, interview certainly looks inconsistent with his testimony."

But Schiff stopped short of accusing Prince of perjury, leaving those questions to Mueller.

"Bob Mueller will have to make the decision about whether that rises to a level of deliberate falsehood," Schiff said. "But we had questions at the time of his testimony about his candor and how forthcoming he was. And those questions have only been heightened now."

Schiff is not the only member of the Intelligence Committee who says Prince was not truthful with investigators.

"He beyond strained credibility in the interview," panel member Mike Quigley, D-Ill., said when reached for comment Saturday. "He's full of it; he's always been full of it.... You can't trust him."

"Opinion only, but I think he is a liar," said panel member Jackie Speier, D-Calif.

Lying to Congress is a crime that has resulted in legal charges against Trump's longtime friend, Roger Stone, and his former lawyer and fixer, Michael Cohen.

"We benefit tremendously" by stationing



ANDREW HARRER/Bloomberg

Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., shown at a November news conference in Washington, opposes a Trump administration plan to demand that countries hosting U.S. troops pay significantly more money to the U.S.

Lawmaker blasts proposal that allies pay more to host US troops

By JENNIFER A. DLOUHY
Bloomberg

A top Republican blasted the Trump administration's potential demand that countries pay the full cost of hosting U.S. troops and then some, saying it's a "wrong-headed" move that would jeopardize both national security and relationships with allies.

"It would be absolutely devastating," Rep. Liz Cheney, of Wyoming, who heads the House Republican Conference and serves on the Armed Services Committee, said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Cheney was responding to a Bloomberg News report on Friday that the administration is developing so-called "cost plus 50" plans to force countries to pay the full price of American soldiers deployed on their soil, plus an additional 50 percent or more for the privilege. Nations hosting American forces could see their tab climb five to six times their current costs.

"We benefit tremendously" by stationing

soldiers in South Korea, Japan, Germany and other countries, Cheney said. "The notion that we are now going to somehow charge them 'cost plus 50' is really—it's wrongheaded, and it would be devastating to the security of the nation and our allies."

Trump's planned proposal is in line with his efforts to encourage U.S. allies to boost their defense spending. But it's stoked concerns among diplomats and security experts who fear any "cost plus 50" demand would be an affront to allies in Asia and Europe who already question the depth of Trump's commitment to them.

Cheney vowed to oppose the move in Congress. Asked whether fellow Republicans would join her in rejecting the plan, given their tendency not to buck the president on most matters, she said politicians must be aware of the security dividends the U.S. gets from having troops stationed abroad.

"It's going to be very important for us to make sure that people understand the danger that will do to our relationships and to our fundamental security," Cheney said.



Schiff

have to make the decision about whether that rises to a level of deliberate falsehood," Schiff said. "But we had questions at the time of his testimony about his candor and how forthcoming he was. And those questions have only been heightened now."

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"We benefit tremendously" by stationing

NATION

Calif. police report almost no racial profiling

Small number prompts desire for changes to encourage more people to come forward

By DON THOMPSON

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California's first-in-the-nation attempt to track racial profiling complaints against police produced numbers so unrealistically small that the board overseeing the tally wants departments to make changes to encourage more people to come forward.

The panel's most recent report found 17 percent of California's law enforcement agencies reported not a single complaint in 2017.

Of 659 profiling complaints that were filed in a state of nearly 40 million people, just 10 were sustained. Three-quarters of the profiling complaints involve race or ethnicity, but they can also include age, gender, religion, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation.

The people who share leadership of the California Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board are divided over the seriousness of the problem and whether changes are needed based on the results of the second annual report.

Andrea Guerrero, executive director of the advocacy group Alliance San Diego, doesn't believe the numbers and thinks it might be the result of police protecting their own.

"We know we have a profiling problem in the state," she said.

Her co-chair, Kings County Sheriff David Robinson, disputed that. He said the numbers reflect the reality that it's "so rare and far between that someone is racist."

Under current standards, people who lodge formal complaints generally must use their name to report concerns that can range from an officer being rude or disrespectful to false arrests or racially targeted traffic stops. Often, they must go to a police station and fill out a form.

Robinson said most people prefer a more informal process that often doesn't show up in official statistics, like having a police supervisor hear the complaint and talk to the officer.

Recommendations

The panel has recommended that local agencies allow anonymous and third-party complaints to shield victims from retaliation while making it easier to file complaints, including by providing materials in many languages.

There should be follow-ups so complainants don't feel they're being ignored, Guerrero said, and civilian oversight panels with "teeth in them" should oversee complaint investigations.

Plumas County Sheriff's Deputy Ed Obayashi, an expert on use-of-force policies who teaches other law enforcement personnel around the state, said the racial numbers don't reflect reality,

but he discounted any nefarious intent.

In Southern California, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, where Obayashi used to work, reported just one racial profiling complaint in 2017, while the Riverside County Sheriff's Department had seven. About 3.34 million people live in San Diego County, while the population of Riverside County, which includes the cities of Riverside and Palm Springs, is about 2.42 million.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the United States' largest sheriff's agency, recorded 31.

"There's no way," Obayashi said. "People who see this report are going to say, 'They're covering this up.'"

He and others blamed conservative reporting policies that leave out informal complaints, coupled with "complaint fatigue" by people who are too fatigued to complain or believe they'll be ignored.

Proving a complaint is even tougher, he said.

"To sustain a complaint would require the officer to say, 'I stopped that motorist because he was black or Hispanic.' And what officer is going to admit to that?" Obayashi said.

Perceptions

The 7,400-officer California Highway Patrol reported just 24 profiling complaints from nearly 4 million contacts with the public. None was substantiated by the department, which board member Warren Stanley, the CHP's first black commissioner, said shows the professionalism of the agency's personnel.

Morgan Hill Police Chief David Swing, who represents police chiefs on the board, said he isn't surprised by the low reported statewide numbers.

"There are some that may have, or had, a perception that there are more racial or identity profiles being made, but the data that we have doesn't bear that out," Swing said.

In Sacramento, the department reported 18 civilian complaints in 2017, none of them alleging racial or identity profiling.

"We actually get a lot more than that," acknowledged Sacramento police spokesman Sgt. Vance Chandler. But the department counts only formal complaints that under state law could result in an officer being disciplined, omitting what it calls informal inquiries.



PHOTOS BY RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Protester Alexander Clark, who is not related to Stephon Clark, disrupts the Sacramento (Calif.) City Council during a meeting March 5. Community members expressed anger over the decision not to file criminal charges against the two police officers involved in the fatal shooting of Stephon Clark last year.



Protesters shouting "Black lives matter!" hold up photos of people they claim are the victims of police violence as they block the hallway outside the governor's office in Sacramento on Sept. 2, 2015, while successfully demanding the passage of "The Racial and Identity Profiling Act of 2015."

The department plans to provide more accurate information on the number of complaints and their outcome as part of reform efforts, Chandler said.

Profiling 'undersold'

Betty Williams, president of the NAACP branch in Sacramento, said racial profiling is "undersold and underreported in such a shameless fashion."

She feels the low numbers are reported "so you won't have stronger policies and procedures and laws in place that will give a little more protection from law enforcement."

The next statewide report in

January will for the first time include statistics from California's eight largest police agencies on the perceived race, gender, sexual orientation and other characteristics of motorists during traffic stops.

In December, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department suspended operations of a team of deputies who targeted vehicles on Interstate 5, the main West Coast highway between Mexico and Canada, for drugs and other contraband. The decision came amid accusations of racial profiling after a Los Angeles Times investigation found 69 percent of drivers stopped were Latino and that two-thirds had their vehicles

searched, a far higher rate than other racial and ethnic groups.

At the federal level, legislation twice proposed by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y. — most recently with her fellow Democratic presidential hopeful, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren — would require federal border agents to track and report why they conduct stops and searches that critics fear are frequently based on racial profiling.

Eugene O'Donnell, a former New York City police officer, prosecutor and now a policing expert at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, fears that well-intended legislation by "elite critics, including politicians" to discourage racial profiling will ultimately discourage law enforcement efforts and dissuade recruits from becoming police officers.

"It's essentially inviting people to make a very serious allegation against officers who are acting in good faith that they're profiling people," he said.

'There's no way. People who see this report are going to say, "They're covering this up."'

Ed Obayashi

Plumas County, Calif., deputy and expert on use-of-force policies

WORLD

Airline: Ethiopian jetliner's flight recorders found

BY ELLIAS MESERET
AND YIDNEK KIRUBEL
Associated Press

EJERE, Ethiopia — Following the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jetliner that killed 157 people on Sunday, investigators said they have found the flight recorders from the field where the plane went down.

The new plane crashed shortly after takeoff in clear weather outside Addis Ababa on Sunday, and the airline decided to ground its remaining four 737 Max 8s until further notice as "an extra safety precaution," spokesman Asrat Begashaw said. Ethiopian Airlines had been using five of the planes and awaiting delivery of 25 more.

As Ethiopia observed a day of mourning, Red Cross workers slowly picked through the widely scattered debris near the blackened crash crater, looking for the remains of those aboard, while heavy machinery dug for larger pieces of the plane.

The plane's flight data and cockpit voice recorders were found, Ethiopian Airlines said. An airline official, however, said one of the recorders was partially damaged, and "we will know what we can remove from it." The official spoke on condition of anonymity for lack of authorization to speak to the media.

Ethiopian authorities are leading the investigation into the crash, assisted by the U.S., Kenya and others.

"These kinds of things take time," Kenyan Transport Minister James Macharia told reporters.

Sunday's crash was strikingly similar to that of a Lion Air jet of the same Boeing model in Indonesian seas last year that killed 189 people. The crash was likely to renew questions about the 737 Max 8, the newest version of Boeing's popular single-aisle airliner, which was first introduced in 1967.

and has become the world's most common passenger jet.

People from 35 countries died in the crash six minutes after the plane took off from Ethiopia's capital for Nairobi. Ethiopian Airlines said the senior pilot issued a distress call and was told to return, but all contact was lost shortly afterward. The plane plowed into the ground at Hejere, near Bishopfu, scattering debris like a shredded book, a battered passport and business cards in multiple languages.

"I heard this big noise," resident Tsegaye Retta told The Associated Press. "The villagers said that it was a plane crash, and we rushed to the site. There was a huge smoke that we couldn't even see the plane. The parts of the plane were falling apart."

Kenya lost 32 people, more than any other country. Relatives of 25 of the victims had been contacted, Macharia said, and taking care of their welfare was of utmost importance.

"Some of them, you know, they are very distressed," he said. "They are in shock like we are. They are grieving."

In Addis Ababa, members of an association of Ethiopian airline pilots called uncontactable for their detailed details. Fourteen photos of seven crew members sat in chairs at the front of a crowded room.

Canada, Ethiopia, the U.S., China, Italy, France, Britain, Egypt, Germany, India and Slovakia all lost four or more citizens.

Leaders of the United Nations, the U.N. refugee agency and the World Food Program said colleagues had been on the plane.

The U.N. migration agency estimated that 19 UN-affiliated employees were killed.

Both Addis Ababa and Nairobi are major hubs for humanitarian workers, and some had been on their way to a large U.N. environmental conference set to begin



MULUGETA AYENE/AP

People work at the scene of an Ethiopian Airlines plane crash near Bishoftu, south of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Monday.

More Max planes grounded

Associated Press

BELING — Boeing's stock plunged 8 percent Monday morning as aviation authorities in China, Indonesia and Ethiopia ordered airlines to ground their Boeing 737 Max 8 planes the day after one crashed in Ethiopia, killing all 157 people on board.

The crash of the Ethiopian Airlines jet shortly after it took off from Addis Ababa on Sunday is drawing renewed scrutiny of the plane just four months after a similar crash of the same model that killed 189 people in Indonesia.

Chicago-based Boeing said it did not intend to issue any new guidance to its customers. It does plan to send a technical team to the crash site to help Ethiopian and U.S. investigators.

The 737 is the best-selling airliner in history, and the Max,

the newest version of it, with more fuel-efficient engines, is a central part of Boeing's strategy to compete with European Airbus.

"Safety is our number one priority, and we are taking every measure to fully understand all aspects of this accident, working closely with the investigating team and all regulatory authorities involved," the company said in a statement.

Safety experts cautioned against drawing too many parallels between the two disasters.

"I do hope, though, that people will wait for the first results of the investigation instead of jumping to conclusions based on the very little facts that we know so far," said Harro Ranter, founder of the Aviation Safety Network, which compiles information about accidents worldwide.

Monday in Nairobi, the U.N. flag at the event flew at half-staff.

The crash shattered more than two years of relative calm in African skies, where travel had long been chaotic. It also was a serious blow to Ethiopian Airlines, which has expanded to become the continent's largest and best-managed carrier and turned Addis Ababa

into the gateway to Africa.

The state-owned carrier has a good reputation, and the company's CEO told reporters no problems were seen before Sunday's flight.

But investigators also will look into the plane's maintenance, which may have been an issue in the Lion Air crash.

Russia boasts about its military

BY VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Russian military has commissioned more than 1,000 new aircraft and thousands of tanks in the past few years in a massive modernization effort amid tensions with the West, the nation's defense minister said Monday.

Sergei Shoigu boasted of the military's achievements in his six years on the job, saying in a speech to lawmakers that the armed forces have turned into a highly mobile force capable of projecting power to distant areas.

Shoigu noted that the military received more than 1,000 warplanes and combat helicopters and over 3,700 tanks in 2012-18. He added that the armed forces have received 109 ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles and 108 submarine-launched ICBMs and formed 10 brigades armed with state-of-the-art, short-range Iskander missiles.

Shoigu said the campaign in Syria that Russia has waged since 2015 showcases its military might and has allowed the military to test its new weapons in combat, including shipborne and air-launched long-range cruise missiles.

He noted that the military also has seen a quick expansion in the number of drones, laser-guided artillery projectiles and other precision weapons.

The defense minister emphasized that the 1 million-strong military has nearly 400,000 professional enlisted personnel and noncommissioned officers, a major shift for the armed forces that in the recent past relied exclusively on the draft.

Shoigu said the increase in the number of contract soldiers has allowed the military to form 136 battalions consisting entirely of professional personnel. Such battalion tactical groups are the core tactical units, allowing the armed forces to quickly deploy to any area.

He said every brigade or regiment in the Russian army now has two battalions of professional soldiers and one made up of draftees. The minister added that the draftees aren't sent into combat.

Battalion tactical groups played a key role during Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. Ukraine and the West also has accused Russia of sending its troops to support a separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine — claims Moscow has denied.

Shoigu mentioned the military's effort to beef up its presence in Crimea. He also noted that the armed forces have expanded their foothold in the Arctic, deploying 475 facilities there.

Some EU countries to require preregistration for travelers

BY LINDSEY BEVER
The Washington Post

By 2021, Americans traveling to certain countries in Europe will have to preregister online as part of a security system intended to screen visa-free travelers.

The European Union announced last year that before entry, travelers from all visa-free countries, including the United States, will need to preregister and pay a small application fee using the European Travel Information and Authorization System, or ETIAS, a system designed "to strengthen security checks on

those persons who travel visa-free to the EU," according to a fact sheet from the European Commission.

It applies to people traveling to Europe's Schengen Zone, an area comprising more than two dozen countries, including France, Germany and Spain but not England.

Currently, U.S. citizens with a valid passport can visit Schengen countries and stay for up to 90 days without a visa, according to the State Department.

News outlets, including CNN, Esquire and Travel & Leisure, mistakenly reported that starting in 2021, U.S. travelers will need a visa to visit Europe.

It is not a visa.

Officials with the European Commission and the U.S. State Department, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to speak freely on the process, confirmed that ETIAS is simply a travel authorization for visa-free travelers, similar to the U.S. Electronic System for Travel Authorization, or ESTA, to screen people in the Visa Waiver Program. Inaccurate news reports have recently stated that the EU's ETIAS is a visa program.

The news reports appeared to lead to confusion online.

The EU delegation to the United States tried to clear it up, tweeting Friday, "Neither the #ESTA nor the future #ETIAS (EU equivalent) are visas. They carry out pretravel screening for travelers benefiting from visa-free access."

A spokesman for the European Commission said the EU decided to establish the ETIAS system in summer 2018 and it will be operational in 2021.

Travelers will need documentation such as a passport and will be asked to pay a \$7 application fee.

WORLD

Court bans Ghosn from Nissan board meeting

TOKYO — A Japanese court has rejected a request by former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn, released on bail last week, to attend the Japanese automaker's board meeting on Tuesday.

Nissan dismissed Ghosn as chairman after his Nov. 19 arrest, but he remains on the board. The Tokyo District Court said it rejected Ghosn's request on Monday but did not elaborate on the reasons.

The court's approval was needed based on restrictions imposed for his release on bail. The restrictions say he cannot tamper with evidence, and attending the board meeting could be seen as putting pressure on Nissan employees.

French tycoon on trial over \$450 million deal

PARIS — French tycoon Bernard Tapie is facing a criminal trial over a fraudulent \$450 million arbitration package linked to his sale of sportswear company Adidas in the 1990s.

Civil courts have already ruled on the unusually generous 2008 award was the result of fraud and ordered Tapie to refund the money. Tapie and five others are in court in Paris starting Monday in a trial that will determine whether they also face criminal penalties.

The payout to Tapie came from state funds, prompting public indignation and questions as to whether he benefited from political connections, including with then-President Nicolas Sarkozy.

China will grow crops for wild elephants

BEIJING — China said it plans to grow crops specifically for wild elephants to graze on in an effort to spare the livelihoods of local farmers.

The southwestern province of Yunnan will set up the special farm in a habitat protection area in Menghai county where 18 of the animals frequently raid the crops of farmers from villages in the area. The 126-acre farm will grow corn, sugarcane, bamboo and bananas.

Switzerland releases new \$1,000 banknote

BERLIN — It's purple and yellow, and very valuable: Switzerland's central bank has unveiled a redesigned version of its \$1,000 note.

The Swiss National Bank said on March 5 the overhauled version of its highest denomination note is "smaller and thus easier to handle" than its predecessor, as well as incorporating "complex security features." The note, featuring a handshake on one side and the Swiss parliament on the other, will go into circulation starting Wednesday.

The 1,000-franc note is a longstanding tradition in cash-friendly Switzerland.

The ECB dropped its biggest note amid concerns that it had become too popular among crooks and money launderers.

From The Associated Press

Iran seeks to boost ties with Iraq

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was in Baghdad on Monday, making his first official visit to the nation that Tehran once fought a bloody war against and later backed in the battle with Islamic State.

Since Rouhani's election in 2013, Iraq has relied on Iranian paramilitary support to fight ISIS, following the militant group's capture of the Iraqi city of Mosul and other territory in both Iraq and Syria.

Now with the militants facing a final territorial defeat in the Syrian village of Baghouz, Iran is looking for Iraq's continued support as it faces a maximalist pressure campaign by President Donald Trump after his decision to withdraw America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Rouhani, who is accompanied on the three-day visit by a high-ranking political and economic delegation, was received by an honor guard on landing in Baghdad, where he was welcomed by Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Ali Al-Hakim.

Rouhani then visited the shrine



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Iraqi President Barham Salih, second left, and visiting Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, inspect an honor guard during a welcoming ceremony at Salam Palace in Baghdad on Monday.

of Imam Kadhim, the seventh of 12 clerics revered by Shiites worldwide. Rouhani, a Shiite cleric, paused to reach out and touch the gate surrounding the imam's tomb.

He then met President Barham Salih and spoke to journalists, telling them that a "stable Iraq will lead to stability in the entire region."

"We want to be united countries, not against others, but attracting others to our unity," Rouhani said.

For his part, Salih said Baghdad's central location made it crucial to resolving regional issues. He thanked Iran for its support during Iraq's fight against ISIS.

Rouhani was to later meet Prime Minister Abdel Abdul

Mehdi, as well as other politicians and Shiite leaders.

Speaking at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport before leaving for Iraq, Rouhani was quoted on his official website as saying the trip's goal was "deepening bilateral relations."

"Relations between Iran and Iraq are special," Rouhani was quoted as saying. "In the recent years, the people of Iran have passed a test with pride, and that is wherever the peoples of the region faced a problem and asked for the help of the Iranian nation and government, we rushed to help them."

Tehran sees the U.S. military presence at its doorstep in Iraq as a threat — one that could also undermine Iran's influence over Baghdad.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif alluded to that on Sunday while in Baghdad, saying that any country which tries to interfere with the good Iran-Iraq relations would "be deprived of opportunities for itself."

Iran also sees Iraq as a possible route to bypass U.S. sanctions that Trump reimposed last year after pulling the U.S. out of the 2015 nuclear deal.

1 suspect in killing of Kim Jong Nam is released

By EILEEN NG
Associated Press

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia — An Indonesian woman held for two years on suspicion of killing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's half brother was freed from custody Monday after Malaysian prosecutors unexpectedly dropped the murder charge against her.

Siti Aisyah cried and hugged her Vietnamese co-defendant, Doan Thi Huong, before leaving the courtroom and being ushered away in an Indonesian Embassy car. She told reporters that she had learned only Monday morning that she would be freed.

The trial is to resume Thursday when prosecutors are expected to reply to a request by Huong's lawyers for the government to also withdraw the charges against her.



VINCENT THIAN/AP

Siti Aisyah, left, smiles with her lawyer, Gooi Soon Seng, at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Monday.

Indonesia's government had lobbied repeatedly for Aisyah's release. Vietnam has pushed less hard and recently hosted Kim Jong Un for an official visit and a summit with President Donald Trump.

Kim Jong Un's half brother, Kim Jong Nam, died after being assaulted in an airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13, 2017. The two young women were accused of smearing VX nerve agent on his agosto.

They have said they thought they were taking part in a prank for a TV show. They had been the only suspects in custody after four North Korean suspects fled the country the morning Kim was killed.

On Monday, the High Court discharged Aisyah without an acquittal after prosecutors applied to drop the murder charge against her. They did not give any reason.

Officials said she was expected to fly back to Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, later Monday.

"I feel very happy," Aisyah said at a news conference at the Indo-

nesian Embassy. "I didn't expect that today will be my freedom day."

Indonesia's government said its continued high-level lobbying resulted in Aisyah's release. Its Foreign Ministry said in a statement that she was "deceived and did not realize at all that she was being manipulated by North Korean intelligence."

Prosecutor Iskandar Ahmad said Aisyah's discharge without an acquittal means she can be charged again if there is fresh evidence but that there are no such plans now.

Huong's lawyer, Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, said Huong felt Aisyah's discharge was unfair to her because the judge last year had found sufficient evidence to continue the murder trial against them.

Iranian couple arrested after marriage proposal in public

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — A young Iranian couple have been arrested after a marriage proposal in public that was captured on a video clip that went viral on social media.

Police say the pair offended Islamic mores on public decency. They were later released on bail.

The video, which showed on social media last Friday, shows the young man standing in a heart-shaped ring of flower petals next

to colorful balloons in a mall in the central Iranian city of Arak.

He proposes, and after the young woman says "yes," he slips a ring on her finger to cheers from a crowd of onlookers. The two were not identified.

Mostafa Norouzi, deputy police chief in Arak, told the Shahrvarid daily that it is unacceptable for the young "to do whatever is common in other places of the world and disregard mores, culture and religion" in Iran.

The pair's "offense is very clear and there is no room for explanation" about the reason for their arrest, Norouzi added.

Lawyer Isa Amini, head of the Tehran Bar Association, criticized the arrest and said he could not understand what the grounds were for such an action since the couple did not commit any wrongdoing.

However, the semi-official and hard-line Fars news agency called the public proposal "shameful"

and claimed it could promote "immorality." The news agency demanded "harsh" punishment to stop such displays from being repeated by others.

Iranian hard-liners perceive public displays of affection as a result of allegedly corrupt influence of Western culture that threatens mores in this conservative Islamic society.

The Islamic Republic's strict rules forbid gender mixing in public.

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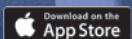
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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police respond when teens at mall flee

WA SEATTLE — Police in a city north of Seattle said a large group of teens and young adults entered and then suddenly fled a mall, and the chaos may have been sparked by a social media posting.

KOMO television reported the gathering early Saturday evening at Tukwila's Southcenter Mall drew a large police presence. No one was hurt in the incident.

Detectives said the crowd gathered at the urging of a post on YouTube. A large number of young adults suddenly ran for the exits, prompting fear that there might be a shooter or other threat.

Some stores closed their gates when they saw young people fleeing for the exits.

Police said the person posting the invitation to gather did not have a permit for an event or ask permission from the mall.

Troopers ticket over 200 under left lane law

IN INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana State Police have handed out more than 200 tickets to motorists for driving too slowly in the left lane.

WRTV-TV reported state police ticketed 87 drivers in 2017 for left lane violations and 132 in 2018. It also gave more than 1,000 warnings last year.

A 2015 state law requires drivers to move to the right lane to allow faster traffic to pass.

Trooper Aaron Pfaff said slower drivers clogging the left lane can cause aggressive driving and road rage.

Dozens rescued after being trapped on ice

OH MARBLEHEAD — A sheet of ice holding fishermen on Lake Erie broke loose in windy weather Saturday morning, sending many of them scrambling to safety but leaving nearly four dozen stranded on the floe for three hours more than a mile offshore until emergency crews could rescue them.

About 100 of 146 fishermen out on the ice were able to grab their gear and make it back to shore before any additional ice broke off, The Blade of Toledo reported.

One of the stranded fishermen, Tony Adkins, 42, said the ice began to crack quickly, and soon there was a huge gap between the ice floe and the shore.

"Thank God the Coast Guard was here for us," Adkins, of Akron, told The Blade. "You live and you learn, I guess."

CVS to change on-hold jingle after request

MA BOSTON — A Massachusetts doctor who pleaded with CVS to change its on-hold jingle is getting his wish.

The Boston Globe reported a spokeswoman for the pharmacy chain said Friday the company is updating its voice-response phone system, including the on-hold music that Dr. Steven Schlozman so hated.

THE CENSUS

\$500K

The approximate amount in cash seized by Georgia police during a traffic stop. Deputies pulled over a driver for erratic driving and found the car contained \$500,800. WALB-TV reported Lowndes County deputies made the traffic stop on Interstate 75 after seeing the vehicle weaving across lanes and moving at a very slow speed. Sheriff Ashely Paulk said drug dogs were used to sniff the car. No drugs were found, but deputies discovered duffel bags and a dog food bag stuffed with cash. Paulk said the bills were bundled and wrapped with plastic and rubber bands, "the same way they wrap cocaine." He said the driver is charged with traffic offenses and the investigation remains open.



KELLY SMITH, THE (MICHIGAN CITY, IND.) NEWS DISPATCH/AP

Saluting the Spice Girls

Employees from 1st Source Bank dressed as the Spice Girls encourage the crowd to "Spice Up Your Life" during the United Way of La Porte County's inaugural Lip Sync Battle at the Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City, Ind., on Friday.

The child psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital penned a tongue-in-cheek letter to WBUR-FM last year saying the music haunted him "day and night."

The letter sparked a nationwide debate, with some people praising the music and others sharing Schlozman's sentiments.

Town elects goat as its honorary mayor

VT FAIR HAVEN — A 3-year-old Nubian goat named Lincoln is poised to become the first honorary pet mayor of the small Vermont town of Fair Haven.

The nanny goat was chosen last week by townspersons for the one-year post at the community's Town Meeting Day. Lincoln takes office Tuesday.

The ballot of 16 pets was open to all town residents. Most of the other candidates were dogs and cats; a gerbil named Crystal also was a candidate.

Lincoln, with 13 votes, beat out a dog named Sammie, who received 10 votes. The other candidates combined for 30 votes.

During her time as mayor, Lincoln will be expected to attend local events such as marching in the Memorial Day parade wearing a custom-made sash.

Feds say man wed stranger to stay in US

NC RALEIGH — Prosecutors say a couple was panhandling along a North

Carolina road when a foreigner pulled over with a proposal for the woman — marry him so he could stay in the country, and they'd receive \$12,000 along with payments for a house and car.

Citing court records, The News & Observer reported that Melissa Anne Godshall, 31, accepted the offer from Levan Lomtadze, 44, a native of the country of Georgia. Her boyfriend, Robert Kennerly, 46, served as a witness during the marriage ceremony.

The U.S. attorney's office says all three have been indicted on charges involving marriage fraud.

Dog randomly shot; police seeking suspect

TX DALLAS — Dallas police are looking for a man who authorities allege walked up to a group of children and shot their dog for seemingly no reason.

WFAA-TV reported that Nolan, a 9-month-old Labrador retriever mix, is expected to make a full recovery after undergoing emergency surgery.

The dog's owner, Genola Vance, told WFAA-TV her son and nephews were taking out the trash on Feb. 28 when the unidentified man walked up to them, said "sorry" and shot Nolan. The man wore a black hoodie and had a backpack.

The dog was shot in the front of his mouth, breaking his jaw.

The local SPCA chapter paid for his surgery, which was about \$7,000.

Ammo explodes during blaze at vacant home

MO ST. LOUIS — Authorities in St. Louis said a firefighter was slightly injured when ammunition exploded during a fire in a vacant house.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that firefighters were called to the two-story, multifamily house about 9 p.m. Friday. The fire department said no one was in the home, located in the Kingsway East neighborhood, at the time.

Officials said that at some point during the fire, heat caused loose ammunition to explode and hit one firefighter in the hand. The firefighter was treated on the scene.

Man stabbed in head during fight at Walmart

KY BUECHEL — Police in Kentucky said a man was stabbed in the head during a fight outside a Buechel Walmart, and authorities are still searching for the suspect.

Louisville Metro Police spokeswoman Alicia Smiley told The Courier Journal that a fight started between two men outside the store Sunday afternoon and led to the stabbing. It's unclear what caused the fight. The suspect fled the scene, and authorities were still searching for him as of that night.

West Buechel police Chief Jim Sherrard said the man was conscious when police arrived at the scene. He lost consciousness on the

his way to the hospital, where he was in critical condition Sunday evening.

Loose cart on flight causes minor injuries

DC WASHINGTON — Some people aboard an American Airlines flight received minor injuries when a loose cart came down the aisle of the plane.

American Airlines spokeswoman Martha Thomas told The Associated Press on Sunday evening that about 2145's landing at Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport from LaGuardia Airport in New York, a cart came loose in the aft galley.

Family faces huge bill after meter not read

MS SALTILLO — A northeast Mississippi family faces a \$1,400 bill after a city forgot to read a water meter for three years.

The Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal reported that at Kristi Sizemore's home, Sizemore's family used a spigot to water its yard and fill a swimming pool for three years until the city sent a bill in summer 2018.

City attorney Chris Evans said state law doesn't allow the city to waive the charges, even though the city was at fault. Instead, Saltillo officials agreed to a two-year payment plan for Sizemore to catch up.

From wire reports

FACES



DISNEY-MARVEL/AP

Brie Larson is shown in a scene from "Captain Marvel." The film established a new worldwide mark for a film directed or co-directed by a woman.

'Captain Marvel' trumps trolls

Female-fronted superhero film rockets to huge global opening

BY JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

"Captain Marvel," Marvel Studios' first female-fronted superhero movie, launched with \$153 million domestically and \$455 million globally, according to studio estimates Sunday, making it one of the biggest blockbusters ever led by a woman.

Brie Larson's Carol Danvers, a character who debuted in Marvel Comics in 1968, had never before made it into the movies and was previously lesser known than many Marvel heroes. But "Captain Marvel," which came in at the high end of the Walt Disney Co.'s expectations, ranks as one of Marvel's most successful character debuts.

Only "The Avengers" movies, "Black Panther," "Captain America: Civil War" and "Iron Man 3" have opened better in the Marvel cinematic universe.

"She definitely pushed us higher, further, faster," Disney distribution chief Cathleen Taff said.

"Captain Marvel" rocketed up other record books, too. It establishes a new worldwide mark for a film directed or co-directed by a woman. "Captain Marvel" was helmed by the filmmaking team of Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, who previously made the indies "Half Nelson" and "Mississippi Grind."

It's the sixth largest worldwide debut ever. The only movie with a female lead that's opened better globally was "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," which grossed \$529 million when it debuted in 2015.

Like the "Force Awakens" sequel "The Last Jedi," "Captain Marvel" had to tangle with trolls who sought to lessen the film's impact. Some fans claimed Larson's hero didn't smile enough, a charge she responded to with doctored pictures of previous male Marvel superheros with awkwardly full grins. Others took issue with Larson's statements about making her press interviews for the film more inclusive and not "overwhelmingly white male."

The anti-"*Captain Marvel*" campaign

Rep. Dan Crenshaw reveals Captain America glass eye

One war hero is commanding a fictional war hero.

U.S. Rep. Dan Crenshaw, a former Navy SEAL-turned Texas congressman, showed off his Marvel-ous "Captain America"-inspired glass eye to Steve Rogers himself — actor Chris Evans.

Crenshaw took to Twitter on Friday to post a picture of himself revealing a "Captain America" star shield on his glass eye underneath the eye patch he wears. Crenshaw lost his right eye to an IED blast in 2012 during his third deployment.

"When Captain America sees your Captain America glass eye," the congressman captioned the images, adding the hashtag #merica.

Evans seemed to approve.

"A VERY cool use of vibranium," he tweeted Friday, referring to a virtually indestructible fictional metal used to create Captain America's shield.



Screenshot from Twitter

The actor, 37, met with other lawmakers during a stop in Washington over the weekend, including South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, who appears to know the highly anticipated ending of "Avengers: Endgame" (in theaters April 26).

"Honor to meet you, sir. Thank you for taking the time," Evans tweeted. "And if you repeat the secrets I told you about Endgame, Marvel will make sure we BOTH turn to dust."

— Cydney Henderson
USA Today

included the flooding of Rotten Tomatoes audience scores, which artificially drove down the film's score to 55 percent fresh from more than 44,000 votes as of Sunday. To combat the down-voting issue in advance of "*Captain Marvel*," Rotten Tomatoes (which doesn't require users to verify that they've seen a movie that they're scoring) removed the ability to rate movies prior to release.

For Disney, it's a strong start for a year littered with tentpole releases, some of which are sure to surpass "*Captain Marvel*," including: "Avengers: Endgame," "Toy Story 4," a remake of "The Lion King" and the next "Star Wars" movie.

Last week's top film, "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World," slid to a distant second place in its third weekend

of release with \$14.7 million. In its second weekend, Tyler Perry's "A Madea Family Funeral" dropped 55 percent with \$12 million. It's made \$45.9 million in 10 days.

"*Captain Marvel*" scared away any new wide releases. Vincent D'Onofrio's directorial debut, "The Kid," was largely overlooked by moviegoers. It sold \$505,000 of tickets in 268 theaters.

A24's "Gloria Bell," Sebastian Lelio's remake of his own Chilean drama, opened strongly in limited release with \$154,775 in five theaters. The film stars Julianne Moore as a middle-aged Los Angeles divorcee.

"Apollo 11," the acclaimed moon landing documentary featuring newly discovered and restored footage, continued to pack theaters. It made \$1.3 million from 285 locations, including many IMAX screens.

Showtime cancels 'SMILF' after reports of on-set misconduct

Associated Press

Showtime has canceled the comedy series "SMILF" and ABC studios, which produces the show, has suspended a development deal with its creator, star and executive producer Frankie Shaw.

The announcement Friday came after a December story in The Hollywood Reporter that detailed allegations of abusive on-set behavior and violations of industry rules by Shaw, who directs some episodes of the show. Shaw denied the allegations, saying she worked to create a safe environment and it pained her to learn that any cast and crew were uncomfortable.

"After weighing a variety of factors, Showtime has decided that 'SMILF' will not move forward for a third season," the cable channel's statement said. "We remain extremely proud of the two seasons of 'SMILF,' and thank Frankie Shaw for her singular voice and unique creation."

Showtime will continue to air the second season through its March 31 finale.

In her own statement, Shaw said, "I can't express how much I've loved making this



show, how much I love the cast and crew and appreciate Showtime and ABC as creative partners."

"SMILF," which features Shaw as a down-on-her-luck single mom in Boston with a cast that includes Rosie O'Donnell and Connie Britton, was built on a short film Shaw showed at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival. It premiered in 2017 to critical acclaim and got two Golden Globe nominations.

But allegations from cast and crew emerged in The Hollywood Reporter story, all denied by Shaw, including the mishandling of sex scenes that breached actors' contracts and separating writers by race.

Actor Jan-Michael Vincent, known for 'Airwolf,' dies at 73

Actor Jan-Michael Vincent, the "Airwolf" television star whose sleek good



looks belied a troubled personal life, has died. He was 73.

A death certificate shows that Vincent died of cardiac arrest on Feb. 10 in an Asheville, N.C., hospital. The certificate signed by a doctor says he died of natural causes and no autopsy was performed. It wasn't clear why it took several weeks for news of the death to surface before it was first reported Friday by TMZ.

Vincent starred in such films as 1972's "The Mechanic" and 1978's "Hooper," in which he played a stuntman opposite Burt Reynolds.

Perhaps his best-known role was in the television action-adventure series "Airwolf," which lasted for several seasons after launching in 1984. Vincent played Stringfield Hawke, a rugged pilot who could pull off aerobatic crime-fighting maneuvers in an advanced helicopter — but also plays the cello.

Other news

■ J-Rod is taking it to the next level — superstar Jennifer Lopez and retired baseball star Alex Rodriguez are engaged. The couple posted an Instagram photo of their hands with a massive engagement ring on Lopez's ring finger. The former Yankees shortstop captioned his photo with "she said yes" and a heart emoji. It will be Lopez's fourth marriage and Rodriguez's second. Each has two children from previous marriages.

■ Rap artist 21 Savage is facing another legal headache. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Friday that a week after the Liberty County (Ga.) District Attorney's office rejected a felony case against the Atlanta rapper for a contract dispute regarding a 2016 performance, the club promoter has filed it as a civil case in Fulton County, where the artist lives. Saadatni Kent Smith, who hired the rapper for a show, is seeking \$60,000 for breach of contract and \$1 million for emotional distress. She is requesting a trial by jury.

SHIFTING GEARS



PHOTOS BY JESSICA LYNN WALKER, CHEVROLET/TNS

Blazer is back

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Now on sale at Chevrolet dealers nationwide is the all-new five-passenger midsize Blazer crossover utility vehicle, which brings back an iconic Chevy nameplate that hasn't been seen since 2005.

The 2019 Blazer comes in six different models, beginning with the entry-level LS version, starting at \$28,800 (plus \$1,195 freight) with front-wheel drive and a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine, and ranging up to the 3.6-liter V-6 powered Premier, \$42,700 with front drive or \$45,600 with all-wheel drive.

In between are the Blazer 2.5 Cloth (\$32,300, front drive only); Blazer 3.6 Cloth (\$33,300, front drive only); Blazer 3.6 Leather (\$36,500, front drive; \$40,200, AWD); and the sporty RS (\$40,600, 3.6-liter, front drive; \$43,500, 3.6-liter, AWD).

The new Blazer is different from Ford's Bronco revival for 2020, as that vehicle will be more of an off-road-capable SUV like its original, while the Blazer is a family crossover similar to the midsize, five-passenger Ford Edge and Jeep Grand Cherokee.

For about 30 years, the Bronco and Chevy K5 Blazer — both built on the chassis of their full-size pickup counterparts, the F-series and Silverado — were in head-to-head competition. There was also a smaller version of the Blazer, designated S10 instead of K5, to reflect that it was built on the chassis of Chevy's S10 compact pickup. That vehicle was essentially replaced in the Chevrolet lineup by the TrailBlazer, introduced in 2002 and discontinued after 2009.

The bigger K5 Blazer morphed into the Chevrolet Tahoe, which remains one of the staples of the Chevy truck/SUV lineup.

This newest Blazer is slotted between the full-size Chevy Traverse three-row crossover and the compact five-passenger Equinox, which is about the same size as the early 2000s S10 Blazer SUV. There is also a subcompact crossover in the Chevy

lineup, the Trax.

Chevrolet has never had a crossover in the midsize class, as the Traverse, introduced for 2009, has been marketed as a large crossover. The Blazer corresponds in size and mission with the Edge, Grand Cherokee and other midsize five-passenger crossovers, while the larger Ford Explorer has a third-row seat and competes with the Traverse. Ford's Escape is a compact that goes up against the Equinox, and the new Ford EcoSport is the counterpart to the Trax.

2019 Chevrolet Blazer



Highlights: All new for 2019, this is the revival of Chevrolet's Blazer nameplate, this time on a midsize, five-passenger crossover utility vehicle. It has a choice of a four-cylinder engine or a more-powerful V-6.

Negatives: No third-row seat option.

Vehicle type: Crossover utility vehicle

Base price: \$28,800-\$43,500 (plus \$1,195 freight)

Price as tested: \$49,290 (including freight and options) (Premier AWD)

Powertrain: 2.5-liter inline four-cylinder, 3.6-liter V-6

Transmission: Nine-speed automatic

Power/torque: 193 horsepower/188 foot-pounds (I-4); 308 HP/270 foot-pounds (V-6)

EPA fuel economy rating: 20 mpg city/26 highway/22 combined (V-6, front drive; 18/25/21 (V-6, AWD)

TNS

Chevrolet revives the iconic nameplate in a 5-passenger crossover

Our Premier all-wheel-drive tester came with the 3.6-liter V-6, which is like the one used in the Chevrolet Camaro and several other Chevy models.

An advanced twin-clutch all-wheel-drive system is used on RS and Premier trims. As with most crossovers, the Blazer's all-wheel drive does not have low-range gearing for serious trail use. It does have driver-selectable settings for 2WD, automatic AWD and various terrains.

The six-cylinder Blazers with all-wheel drive are capable of towing trailers weighing up to 4,500 pounds; the front-drive V-6 models and the 2.5-liter models are limited to 1,500 pounds.

There is 30.5 cubic feet of cargo space behind the rear seat, and 64.2 cubic feet with the second-row seatback folded flat. The second-row seat can slide fore and aft to increase leg and knee room or boost cargo space behind it.

The RS and Premier models each has unique styling cues, including different grilles, bright chrome exterior trim on the Premier, and a blacked-out look for the RS.

At the front is a bold grille and hood lines, low-placed HID headlights, and LED daytime running lamps. At the rear are LED Chevy-signature dual-element taillights, dual exhaust outlets and an integrated tailgate spoiler.

The new Blazer has up-to-date connectivity options, intuitive controls and a long list of standard and available safety and convenience features. Six USB ports are included, and wireless phone charging is available.

There is an eight-inch color touch screen featuring Chevrolet Infotainment 3, along with 4G LTE Wi-Fi (with one-month/3gb data trial), along with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility.

Among other features are an electronic locking glovebox large enough for a small handbag. It is locked using the vehicle's Valet Mode, accessible through the Settings menu. A button on the dash opens the glovebox.

Included on our Premier model were a heated steering wheel and heated/ventilated front seats, which can be operated from outside the vehicle with the Remote Start feature. Heated outboard rear seating positions are offered.

The new comfort-open feature, activated by the remote, rolls all the windows down to help dissipate heat from the cabin before anybody gets in.

Adaptive Cruise Control and a Rear Camera Mirror system are available on RS and Premier, while a hands-free power liftgate with Chevy logo projection is standard on RS and Premier.

Both engines have intelligent stop/start to help maximize fuel economy in traffic.

Also standard on all models is Traction Select, which allows for adjustments to the vehicle's driving mode for varying road conditions. On AWD models, it can completely disconnect the rear axle so the vehicle operates only in front-wheel drive mode when the extra traction is not needed at the rear wheels.

The front bucket seats on our Premier model were quite comfortable, and included power adjustments. The rear seat has ample leg and knee room even with larger people in the front seats. Three adults can sit relatively comfortably in the rear seat, although it's better with two adults in the outboard positions, of course.

We had plenty of power with the V-6 engine, even on some mountainous country roads. We haven't tested the four-cylinder Blazer yet. Shifting of the automatic gearbox was smooth and predictable.

The Blazer's cabin was surprisingly quiet even at highway speeds, with little wind noise. The ride was mostly smooth, although winter potholes could make it a bit rough.

We used the all-wheel drive for some limited off-road driving in a national forest, but of course nothing rough or tough, as the Blazer is not really designed for that. Even so, it performed well on dirt and gravel roads, and there was enough ground clearance for minor obstacles.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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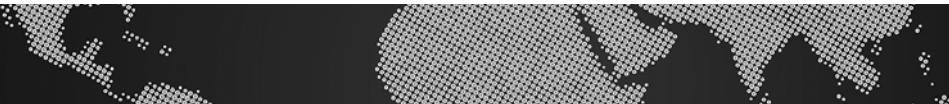
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Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

Tim Campbell



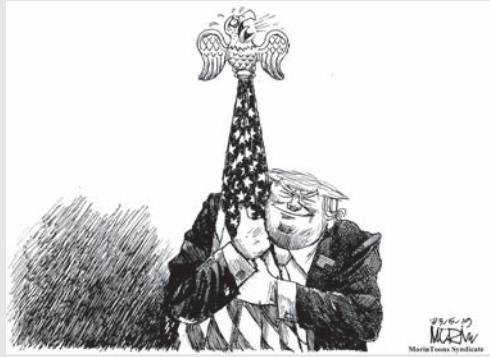
CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GOODNESS

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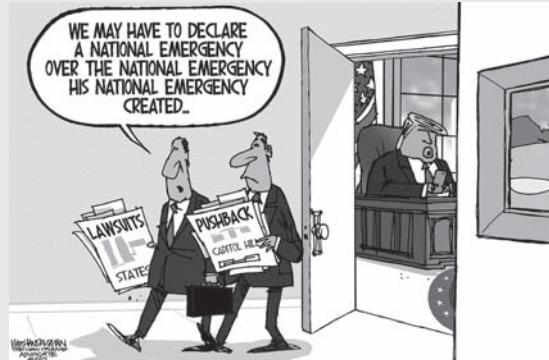
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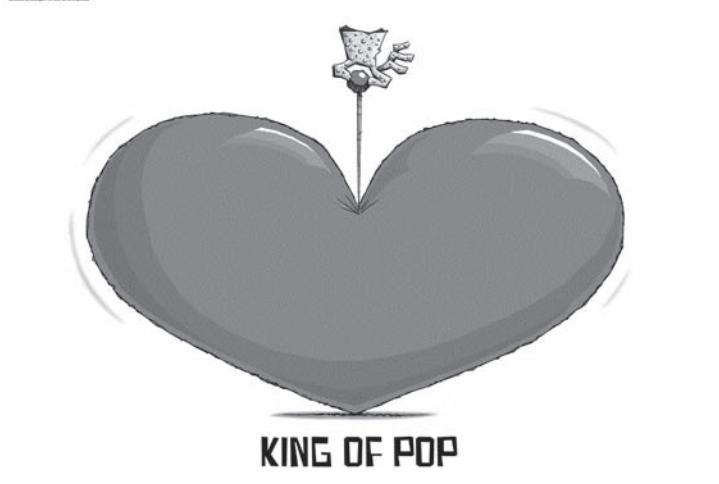


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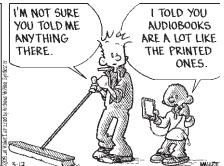
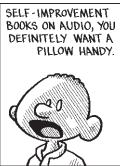
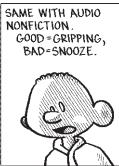
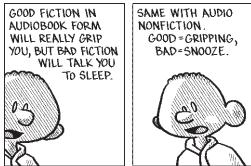
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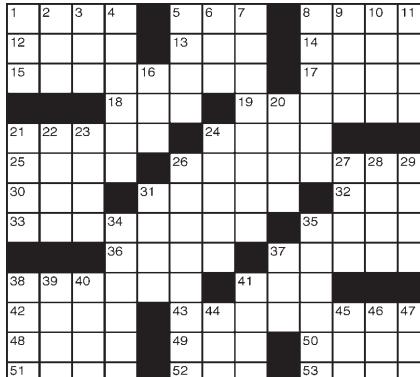


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Frazz



Dilbert

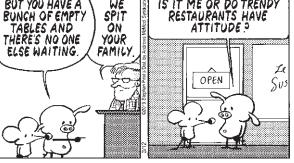
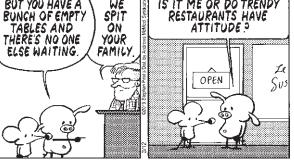
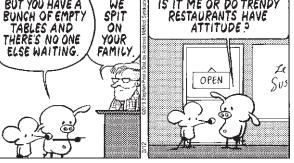
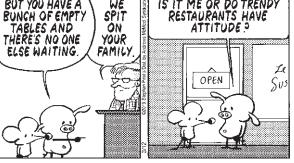
**Eugene Sheffer Crossword****ACROSS****DOWN**

- 1 Offend
- 5 Vegas lead-in
- 8 Biting remark
- 12 Jacob's twin
- 13 Antlered animal
- 14 Latin love
- 15 Printout
- 17 Earring site
- 18 Roscoe
- 19 More slothful
- 21 Filled fully
- 24 — colada
- 25 Cupid's alias
- 26 Street vendor's vehicle
- 30 Sawbuck
- 31 Attorney's load
- 32 Bee follower
- 33 Barber's offerings
- 35 Panache
- 36 Aachen article
- 37 Utter impulsively
- 38 Architectural style
- 41 Hero sandwich
- 42 Actress Perlman
- 43 Ski lodge cupful
- 48 "A Room of — Own"
- 49 Prior night
- 50 Not so hot?
- 51 "Holy cow!"
- 52 Enervate
- 53 Singer Braxton

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	A	P	B	R	O	N	E	L	A	B
R	T	E	E	R	E	I	A	M	A	
S	E	A	O	F	L	O	V	E	K	
S	E	A	O	F	L	O	V	E	K	
A	A	A	A	A	A	E	D	G	E	R
I	G	O	T	I	T	I	S	E	A	T
O	R	C	R	E	B	D	R	A	M	A
R	E	E	M	E	D	A	P	H	I	L
A	W	A	I	T	D	P	O	S	E	
A	W	A	I	T	D	P	O	S	E	
N	C	I	S	R	E	C	E	S	S	
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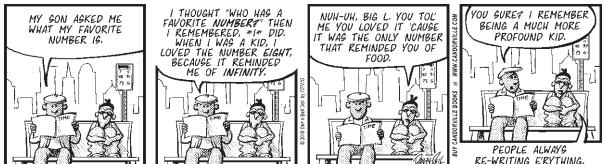
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



3-12

CRYPTOQUIP

B F Y N G G A R K B F S K C J K T K S A
G N Q W T L K S N K F D J ' U L T T K
Y A C A V K C A U U C J , D V K B C N K
C N U K S A Q Y B A R " N V W C A !"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE THIEF
WANTED SOME SMALL CHOCOLATES, DO YOU
THINK HE WAS GUILTY OF STEALING KISSES?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals G

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	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Eastern Conference						
Columbus	1	0	1	4	6	5
D.C. United	1	0	1	4	5	2
Toronto FC	1	0	0	3	3	3
Montreal	1	0	0	3	3	3
Orlando City	0	0	2	2	3	3
New York City FC	0	0	2	2	2	3
New York	0	1	1	2	3	2
Chicago	0	1	1	2	3	2
New England	0	1	1	2	3	2
Cincinnati	0	1	1	2	2	5
Atlanta	0	1	1	2	2	5
Philadelphia	0	1	1	2	2	5
Western Conference						
Seattle	2	0	0	6	6	5
Los Angeles FC	2	0	0	6	6	5
Minnesota United	2	0	0	6	6	5
FC Dallas	1	0	1	4	3	2
Houston	1	0	1	4	3	2
Real Salt Lake	1	0	1	4	3	2
Seattle Sounders	1	0	1	4	3	2
LA Galaxy	1	0	1	4	3	2
Portland	0	1	1	4	3	2
Vancouver	0	2	0	2	2	4
Colorado	0	2	0	2	2	4

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for a tie.

Saturday, March 9

Orlando City 1, Chicago 1, tie

哥伦布 1, 新英格兰 0

DC 0, 波士顿 1

蒙特利尔 1, 多伦多 0

新泽西 0, 纽约 0

洛杉矶 0, 西雅图 0

费城 0, 亚特兰大 0

明尼苏达 0, 科罗拉多 0

波特兰 0, 布拉登顿 0

温哥华 0, 科罗拉多 0

科罗拉多 0, 蒙特利尔 0

周六, 3月 9日

奥兰多城 1, 芝加哥 1, 平局

哥伦布 1, 新英格兰 0

DC 0, 波士顿 1

蒙特利尔 1, 多伦多 0

新泽西 0, 纽约 0

洛杉矶 0, 西雅图 0

费城 0, 亚特兰大 0

明尼苏达 0, 科罗拉多 0

波特兰 0, 布拉登顿 0

温哥华 0, 科罗拉多 0

科罗拉多 0, 蒙特利尔 0

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明尼苏达 0, 科罗拉多 0

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明尼苏达 0, 科罗拉多 0

周六, 3月 9日

奥兰多城 1, 芝加哥 1, 平局

哥伦布 1, 新英格兰 0

DC 0, 波士顿 1

蒙特利尔 1, 多伦多 0

新泽西 0, 纽约 0

洛杉矶 0, 西雅图 0

费城 0, 亚特兰大 0

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SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

College hockey

Conference tournaments

ATLANTIC HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
First Round (Best-of-3)

Friday, March 8

Army 3, Merrimack 2

Niagara 5, Clarkson 2

Robert Morris 1, Holy Cross 0

Saturday, March 9

Canisius 4, Niagara 3, OT, series tied 1-1

Army 5, Merrimack 1, Army advances 2-0

Robert Morris 3, Holy Cross 2, Robert Morris advances 2-0

Sunday, March 10

Niagara 2, Canisius 1, Niagara advances 2-1

Quaterfinals (Best-of-3)

Weedon, March 13

RIT at Sacred Heart, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 14

RIT at Sacred Heart, 7 p.m.

Army at American International

Robert Morris at Bentley

RIT at Sacred Heart (if necessary)

Niagara at Air Force

Saturday, March 16

American International

Robert Morris at Niagara

Niagara at Air Force

Sunday, March 17 (if necessary)

Army at Bentley

Robert Morris at Bentley

Niagara at Air Force

Atlantic Center

Buffalo, N.Y.

Semifinals

Friar, March 22

Highest-ranking seed vs. lowest-re-

maining seed

Middle two remaining seeds

Championship

Saturday, March 23

Semifinalists

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

First Round (Best-of-3)

Friday, March 8

Notre Dame 1, Michigan State 0

Minnesota 2, Wisconsin 2, OT

Wisconsin 4, Penn State 5

Saturday, March 9

Minnesota 2, Michigan 1, Minnesota advances 2-1

Penn State 2, Wisconsin 2, series tied 1-1

Notre Dame 2, Michigan State 0, Notre Dame advances 2-0

Sunday, March 10

Penn State 2, Minnesota 3, OT, Penn State advances 2-1

Saturday, March 16

Minnesota at Notre Dame

Sunday, March 17

Penn State at Michigan State

Championship

Saturday, March 23, or Sunday, March 24

Lower-seeded semifinal winner at higher-seeded semifinal winner, TBA

First Round (Best-of-3)

Friar, March 8

Dartmouth 3, St. Lawrence 2

Yale 4, RPI 1

Union 4, Colgate 0

Brown 4, Princeton 0

Saturday, March 9

St. Lawrence 3, Dartmouth 2, OT, se-

ries tied 1-1

Yale 4, RPI 0, Yale advances 2-0

Union 4, Colgate 0, Union advances 2-0

Brown 4, Princeton 2, Brown advances 2-0

Sunday, March 10

Dartmouth 8, St. Lawrence 0, Dart-

mouth advances 2-1

Quaterfinals (Best-of-3)

Friar, March 15

Dartmouth at Harvard

Brown at Quinnipiac

Yale at Clarkson

Union at Cornell

Saturday, March 16

Charterhouse 14, Murray 5, St. 0-1

Cincinnati-Clermont at Cumberlands (Ky.), 2 ppd

Douglas 1, Lawrence Tech 1-2

Kentucky 16-2, Oakland 10-1

Elon 1, Bryant 0

Ferris 1, Monettone 5-3

George Mason 4-2, Manhattan 3-0

James Madison 11-6, High Point 0-8

Kentucky 5, Murray 4

Marian (Md.) 6, Edward Waters 3

NC Central 4, A&T 3

Shippensburg 10, Endicott 8-1

The Citadel at Charleston Southern 3

UNC Greensboro 6-5, Princeton 2-3

UT-Martin 3-1, Missouri 0-0

Trinity 1, Quinnipiac 0

Vanderbilt 9, Illinois St. 1

Yale at Clarkson

Union at Cornell

Sunday, March 17 (if necessary)

Dartmouth at Harvard

Brown at Quinnipiac

Yale at Clarkson

Union at Cornell

At 1980 Birk-Herb Brooks Arena

Semifinals

Friday, March 22

TBD

Championship

Saturday, March 23

Semifinal winners

HOCKEY EAST

First Round (Best-of-3)

Friday, March 15

Maine at Northeastern

Boston College at Providence

New Hampshire at UMass Lowell

Saturday, March 16

Maine at Northeastern

Boston College at Providence

New Hampshire at UMass Lowell

Sunday, March 17 (if necessary)

Boston University at UMass Lowell

Colorado at Western Michigan

Saturday, March 16

Colorado College at Western Michigan

Second-round (Best-of-3)

Friday, March 15

Colorado College at Western Michigan

Third-round (Best-of-3)

Friday, March 22

Highest-seeded first-round winner vs.

Lowest-seeded first-round winner vs.

Third-seeded first-round winner vs.

Second-seeded first-round winner

Championship

Saturday, March 23

Semifinal winners

WESTERN COLLEGE

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

First Round (Best-of-3)

Friday, March 8

Lake Superior St. 3, Bemidji St. 2

Northern Michigan 5, Alaska 4, 2OT

Bowling Green 3, Michigan Tech 2

Minnesota St. 3, Alabama Huntsville 1

Saturday, March 9

Lake Superior St. 3, Bemidji St. 1, LSSU advances 2-0

Northern Michigan 4, Alaska 3, NMU advances 2-1

Bowling Green 6, Michigan Tech 2

BGSU advances 2-0

Minnesota St. 4, Alabama Huntsville 2-0

Semifinals

Saturday, March 15

Bowling Green at Northern Michigan

Lake Superior St. at Minnesota

State

Championship

Saturday, March 23

At higher-ranking seed

Semifinal winner

Briefly

Zidane returns to coaching

Associated Press

MADRID — Zinedine Zidane will reportedly return to coach Real Madrid, the club he led to three straight Champions League titles.

Spanish television channel La Sexta said Monday the former France great has accepted an offer to replace Santiago Solari.

In less than a week, Madrid twice lost to Barcelona and once to Ajax, being eliminated from the Champions League and the Copa del Rey, and seeing its Spanish league title chances all but end.

Zidane is expected to arrive on a long-term contract, not only for the remainder of the Spanish league season.

Club officials were not expected to officially confirm the coaching change until the board of directors met later Monday.

Zidane quit not long after Madrid won the Champions League title last season, saying that he and the club needed a change in command to keep succeeding.

Zidane was expected to be in charge of Tuesday's practice session, and his first game back would be on Saturday at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium against Celta Vigo. Madrid trails leader Barcelona by 12 points with 11 matches left. It is five points behind second-place Atletico Madrid.

Solari led the team to a 4-1 win at Valladolid on Sunday, and was in charge of practice on Monday. The former player could remain with the club despite of Zidane's arrival, but in a different position. The former Argentina and Madrid player was the "B" team's coach before taking over the main squad in October.

Solari led Madrid to 22 wins, eight losses and two draws in all competitions, and helped the team win the Club World Cup in December.

"By the score, it might have looked like I started well, but I was not feeling at all well physically," Williams said in comments distributed by tournament officials.

During the changeover between sets, Williams called for a trainer. She went back out and lost the first game of the second set. The match was soon declared over and Williams walked off the court.

"Before the match, I did not feel great and then it just got worse with every second; extreme dizziness and extreme fatigue," Williams said. "I will focus on getting better and start preparing for Miami."

Williams was playing her first tournament since the Australian Open in late January, when she lost in the quarterfinals.

Grealish later scored to give Villa a 1-0 victory over Birmingham. The 27-year-old Mitchell entered his guilty plea at Birmingham Magistrates' Court.

In a separate incident, a man was charged in London for going



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Serena Williams leaves the court, retiring with a medical issue, during her match against Garbine Muguruza on Sunday at the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, Calif.

Serena's return ends with withdrawal

ON THE COURT — Linebacker Dante Fowler has re-signed with the Los Angeles Rams, passing up a shot at unrestricted free agency to stay with the NFC champions.

The Rams announced a deal

Sunday night to keep Fowler, but didn't disclose the terms.

The Rams acquired Fowler in a trade with Jacksonville on Oct. 30, and the edge rusher played a significant role in Los Angeles' run to the Super Bowl. The 2015 No. 3 overall pick had two sacks in the regular season and one more in the playoffs while creating consistent pressure on quarterbacks.

Fowler would have been one

of the top pass rushers on the market, but he clearly enjoyed his experience in Wade Phillips' defense after an up-and-down career with the Jaguars.

Lions sign free agent receiver Amendola

DETROIT — The Detroit Lions signed two-time Super Bowl winning wide receiver Danny Amendola, taking advantage of their connection to the New England Patriots.

Detroit is led by general manager Bob Quinn and coach Matt Patricia, both of whom worked for the Patriots, and that clearly made Amendola comfortable joining the franchise.

"I was around (Patricia) all the time and I just love the enthusiasm he brings to work," Amendola said.

Amendola said he definitely knew Quinn as well from their time together in New England.

"Very thankful for the opportunity he has given me here to come earn my way on this team," Amendola said.

Amendola had 59 receptions for

575 yards and one touchdown last season with the Miami Dolphins after playing for New England from 2013-17 when he helped the franchise win two Super Bowls.

Molinari watched the birdie

putt kiss off the pin and into the cup. His 45-foot birdie putt capped an 8-under 64 to come from five shots behind Sunday and win the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Molinari, who has four victories worldwide in his last 17 starts over the last nine months.

Rams reach deal to keep LB Fowler

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NHL



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

Penguins goaltender Matt Murray stretches to block a shot in the third period against the Boston Bruins on Sunday in Pittsburgh. The Penguins won 4-2.

Roundup

Penguins stop Bruins' point streak at 19 games

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — For the first time in nearly two months, the Boston Bruins ran out of time. It tends to happen when the Bruins play in Pittsburgh, no matter how hot they are.

Jared McCann scored twice, Matt Murray finished with 39 saves and the Penguins handed the Bruins their first regulation loss since January with a 4-2 victory on Sunday night.

Boston came in 15-0-4 in its last 19 games for the franchise's longest point streak since 1940-41. A goal by John Moore with just over a minute to go got Boston within one, but McCann's empty-netter with 21 seconds left made the Bruins regulation losers for the first time since Jan. 19 against the New York Rangers.

"I think we can be proud of that but not satisfied," Moore said. "There's no reason we can't get back to work on Tuesday. That's the special part about this group. Guys really push each other. We expect a lot out of each other."

Then again, so do the Penguins, who won for the fifth time in seven games to strengthen their position in the race for a playoff spot. Pittsburgh rose to third in the Metropolitan Division with 13 games to go thanks in part to another steady performance by Murray and another job from McCann and Nick Bjugstad, who have thrived since arriving in a trade with Florida on Feb. 1.

McCann's two goals — a short-handed breakaway in the first and his flip from near center ice

in the waning seconds — gave him 16 goals on the season, eight of them coming in his 19 games with Pittsburgh. Bjugstad added his fifth with Pittsburgh, matching the total he put up in 32 games with Florida.

"They're two real good players and they've embraced the roles we put them in," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said.

Jake Guentzel collected his team-high 34th goal for Pittsburgh, which kept Boston winless at PPG Paints Arena since December 2015 by jumping out early and then holding on late.

David Krejci picked up his 19th for the Bruins and Jaroslav Halak made 33 stops, but Boston was its heels for most of the first period while falling into a two-goal deficit from which it couldn't recover.

"We were light on all the battles in the first," coach Bruce Cassidy said. "You could tell they were better prepared to win the pucks. It cost us a couple of goals."

Capitals 3, Jets 1: Carl Hagelin scored the go-ahead goal on a breakaway out of the penalty box and Phenix Copley made 33 saves, helping host Washington to its seventh consecutive victory.

Led by Copley, Hagelin and Nick Jensen, the Capitals killed off all five minor penalties they took and won despite being outshot 34-18. They haven't lost since adding Hagelin and Jensen to their lineup before the trade deadline and now lead the Metropolitan Division by four points.

Fleas 6, Golden Knights 3: Mathew Tkachuk had his first

NHL hat trick, and host Calgary snapped Vegas' six-game winning streak.

Mikael Backlund added two goals and an assist for the Flames, who ended a four-game skid to move back atop the Pacific Division standings ahead of San Jose.

Playing alongside Tkachuk and Backlund, right wing Michael Frolik had four assists as the line combined for 11 points. Andrew Mangiapane also scored for Calgary, and David Rittich made 25 saves.

Panthers 6, Red Wings 1: Aleksander Barkov reached 30 goals for the first time in his career, and host Florida earned its second straight win since a costly game slide.

Josh Brown and Dryden Hunt each scored their first NHL goal for the Panthers. Jonathan Huberdeau had a goal and an assist, and Jamie McGinn and Frank Vatrano also scored.

Making his third NHL start, Sam Montembeault stopped 19 shots as the Panthers finished their season series against the Red Wings with a 3-0-1 record.

Kings 3, Ducks 2: Carl Grunstrom scored his second NHL goal in his second career game and visiting Los Angeles won for just the second time in 15 games.

Dustin Brown and Kyle Clifford also scored first-period goals, and Jonathan Quick made 18 saves in the 15th-place Kings' second win in the Freeway Faceoff rivalry this season.

Jakob Silfverberg and Daniel Sprong scored for the 14th-place Ducks.

Scoreboard

Penguins 4, Bruins 2

	Eastern Conference						Penguins 4, Bruins 2						Boston Pittsburgh					
	Atlantic Division						Boston Pittsburgh						Penguins 4, Bruins 2					
	GP	W	L	O	T	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L	O	T	Pts	GF	GA		
x-Tampa Bay	69	52	13	4	108	265	181	80	69	52	13	4	108	265	181	80		
Boston	69	42	18	9	93	207	173	70	69	42	18	9	93	207	173	70		
Montreal	69	36	26	7	79	208	207	69	36	26	7	79	208	207	69	36		
Florida	69	30	27	12	72	224	234	68	30	27	12	72	224	234	68	30		
Detroit	69	24	35	16	58	188	238	69	24	35	16	58	188	238	69	24		
Ottawa	69	21	34	6	52	103	259	69	21	34	6	52	103	259	69	21		
Metropolitan Division	69	51	21	7	89	237	212	70	69	51	21	7	89	237	212	70		
x-N.Y. Islanders	68	39	24	4	84	232	202	70	68	39	24	4	84	232	202	70		
Carolina	68	37	24	7	81	205	190	69	68	36	25	7	79	205	190	69		
Columbus	68	36	28	5	79	198	188	68	36	28	5	79	198	188	68	36		
New Jersey	68	28	35	8	52	108	224	69	28	35	8	52	108	224	69	25		

First Period—1, Pittsburgh, Bjugstad (10; Simon, Hornqvist), 1:33. **2,** Pittsburgh, McCann 15 (Blueger), 13:54 (sh).

Second Period—3, Boston, Krejci 19 (McGinn, Bolland), 14:32 (pp), 4, Pittsburgh, Guentzel 34 (Peterson, Crosby), 16:32 (pp).

Third Period—5, Boston, Moore 4 (Coyote, Petry), 18:58, 5, Pittsburgh, McCann 16 (Guentzel), 19:39.

Shots on Goal—Boston 8-14-9-41. **Pittsburgh** 15-18-20-41.

Power-play opportunities—Boston 1 of 5; **Pittsburgh** 1 of 5.

Goalsies—Boston, Halak, 18:10-4 (36 saves). **Pittsburgh,** Murray 23-23 (11-41-39).

A—18,578 (18,387). T—2:29.

Panthers 6, Red Wings 1

	Central Division						Panthers 6, Red Wings 1						Panthers 6, Red Wings 1					
	GP	W	L	O	T	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L	O	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Winnipeg	68	40	24	4	84	232	202	69	42	20	7	91	241	199	68	42	20	
Nashville	70	38	27	5	81	205	190	68	38	27	5	81	205	190	68	38	27	
St. Louis	68	36	25	7	79	198	188	68	36	25	7	79	198	188	68	36	25	
Dallas	68	36	28	5	77	197	172	68	36	28	5	77	197	172	68	36	28	
Colorado	69	30	27	12	72	223	215	68	30	27	12	72	223	215	68	30	27	
Chicago	68	25	35	6	52	103	259	69	25	35	6	52	103	259	69	25	35	
Pacific Division	69	42	20	7	91	241	199	68	42	20	7	91	241	199	68	42	20	
Calgary	68	42	21	7	91	241	199	68	42	21	7	91	241	199	68	42	21	
Vegas	68	42	27	5	81	212	196	68	38	29	5	81	193	183	68	38	29	
Arizona	68	38	29	5	81	193	183	68	38	29	5	81	193	183	68	38	29	
Edmonton	68	36	30	7	79	198	188	68	36	30	7	79	198	188	68	36	30	
Vancouver	69	28	32	9	65	155	171	70	28	32	9	63	161	214	70	28	32	
Anaheim	70	28	34	9	63	161	214	69	28	34	9	63	161	214	69	28	34	
Los Angeles	68	25	35	6	52	103	259	69	25	35	6	52	103	259	69	25	35	

Notes: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division receive wild cards per conference advance to playoffs. x-clinched playoff spot.

Colorado 3, Buffalo 1: Colorado 3, St. Louis 2, OT

San Jose 2, St. Louis 1: San Jose 2, St. Louis 1, OT

Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Islanders 2: Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Islanders 2, OT

Tampa Bay 3, Detroit 1: Tampa Bay 3, Detroit 1, OT

Colorado 3, Buffalo 1: Colorado 3, Buffalo 1, OT

Philadelphia 3, Tampa Bay 2: Philadelphia 3, Tampa Bay 2, OT

Calgary 3, Tampa Bay 2: Calgary 3, Tampa Bay 2, OT

Phoenix 2, Tampa Bay 1: Phoenix 2, Tampa Bay 1, OT

Calgary 3, Tampa Bay 1: Calgary 3, Tampa Bay 1, OT

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Calgary 3, Tampa Bay 1: Calgary 3, Tampa Bay 1, OT

Calgary 3, Tampa Bay 1: Calgary 3,

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	48	19	19	716	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	48	25	25	627	.6	
Philadelphia	42	25	627	6		
Boston	41	25	25	627	.6	
Brooklyn	35	33	515	13%		
New York	13	54	194	35		

Southeast Division

Central Division

	31	35	470	—	
Miami	30	24	523	8	
Orlando	31	37	523	1	
Charlotte	30	36	455		
Washington	27	38	409	4	
Atlanta	25	35	338	9	

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	41	25	46	Pct	GB
Houston	40	26	606	3%	
San Antonio	38	29	567	3%	
New Orleans	30	32	567	3%	
Memphis	28	40	412	4%	
Dallas	27	39	409	14	

Northwest Division

	43	22	662	—	
Oklahoma City	40	26	606	3%	
Portland	40	26	606	3%	
Utah	37	28	569	12	
Minnesota	32	35	478	12	

Pacific Division

	45	21	682	—	
L.A. Clippers	40	25	567	7%	
Los Angeles Lakers	33	32	567	3%	
L.A. Lakers	32	36	455	15	
Phoenix	16	52	235	30	

x-clinched playoff spot

Saturday's games

	50	17	745	—	
Sacramento	45	21	682		
Brooklyn	14	44	114	11%	
Atlanta	14	44	114	11%	
Minnesota	13	45	130	10%	
Portland	12	45	130	11%	
Milwaukee	13	45	130	11%	
Portland	17	45	120	11%	
Toronto	17	45	120	11%	

Tuesday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Milwaukee	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Wednesday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Thursday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Friday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Saturday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Sunday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Monday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Tuesday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Wednesday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Thursday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Friday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Saturday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Sunday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Monday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland	15	45	111		
Toronto	15	45	111		
Atlanta	15	45	111		
Minnesota	15	45	111		
Portland	15	45	111		

Tuesday's games

	45	15	111	—	
Sacramento	45	15	111		
Portland					

AUTO RACING

Scoreboard

TicketGuardian 500

	Sunday	At ISM Raceway
	Avgonade, Ariz.	Lap length: 1 mile
(Start position in parentheses)	(Start position in parentheses)	(Start position in parentheses)
1. (4) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 312.	1. (4) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 312.	
2. (9) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 312.	2. (9) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 312.	
3. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 312.	3. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 312.	
4. (14) Aric Almirola, Ford, 312.	4. (14) Aric Almirola, Ford, 312.	
5. (3) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 312.	5. (3) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 312.	
6. (17) Joey Logano, Ford, 312.	6. (17) Joey Logano, Ford, 312.	
7. (16) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 312.	7. (16) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 312.	
8. (15) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 312.	8. (15) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 312.	
9. (6) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 312.	9. (6) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 312.	
10. (12) Joey Logano, Ford, 312.	10. (12) Joey Logano, Ford, 312.	
11. (19) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 312.	11. (19) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 312.	
12. (18) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 312.	12. (18) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 312.	
13. (19) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 312.	13. (19) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 312.	
14. (1) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 312.	14. (1) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 312.	
15. (20) Matt DiBenedetto, Toyota, 308.	15. (20) Matt DiBenedetto, Toyota, 308.	
16. (22) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, 312.	16. (22) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, 312.	
17. (10) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 312.	17. (10) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 312.	
18. (11) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, 311.	18. (11) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, 311.	
19. (5) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 311.	19. (5) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 311.	
20. (24) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 309.	20. (24) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 309.	
21. (23) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 311.	21. (23) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 311.	
22. (22) Bubble Wallace, Chevrolet, 301.	22. (22) Bubble Wallace, Chevrolet, 301.	
23. (21) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 300.	23. (21) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 300.	
24. (7) William Byron, Chevrolet, 310.	24. (7) William Byron, Chevrolet, 310.	
25. (29) David Ragan, Ford, 310.	25. (29) David Ragan, Ford, 310.	
26. (28) Matt DiBenedetto, Toyota, 308.	26. (28) Matt DiBenedetto, Toyota, 308.	
27. (33) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 308.	27. (33) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 308.	
28. (25) Matt DiBenedetto, Toyota, 308.	28. (25) Matt DiBenedetto, Toyota, 308.	
29. (30) Quin Houff, Chevrolet, 302.	29. (30) Quin Houff, Chevrolet, 302.	
30. (31) Bayley Currey, Ford, 302.	30. (31) Bayley Currey, Ford, 302.	
31. (32) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 300.	31. (32) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 300.	
32. (33) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, 267.	32. (33) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, 267.	
33. (24) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, Acci-	33. (24) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, Acci-	
dent, 267.	dent, 267.	
34. (35)李 Bowman, Chevrolet, Acci-	34. (35)李 Bowman, Chevrolet, Acci-	
dent, 267.	dent, 267.	
35. (36) Michael McDowell, Ford, Acci-	35. (36) Michael McDowell, Ford, Acci-	
dent, 157.	dent, 157.	

Race Statistics

Average Speed of Race Winner: 101.693 mph.

Time of Race: 304:05. Margin of Victory: 1.29 seconds.

Caution Flags: 9 for 57 laps.

Lead Changes: 8 among 4 drivers.

Lead, Laps Led: Kyle Busch 6 times for 177 laps; Ryan Blaney 5 times for 94 laps;

Denny Hamlin 4 times for 94 laps; Brad Keselowski 4 times for 7 laps; Jimmie Johnson 3 times for 4 laps; Daniel Hemric 3 times for 4 laps.

Grand Prix of St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg Sunday

St. Petersburg Circuit

St. Petersburg, Florida

(Start position in parentheses)

1. (2) Josef Newgarden, United States, 110 laps.

2. (4) Scott Dixon, New Zealand, 110 laps.

3. (1) Will Power, Australia, 110 laps.

Running

4. (6) Felix Rosenqvist, Sweden, 110 laps.

5. (5) Alexander Rossi, Italy, 110 laps.

Running

6. (9) James Hinchcliffe, Canada, 110 laps.

Running

7. (13) Sébastien Paganese, France, 110 laps.

Running

8. (11) Colton Herta, United States, 110 laps.

Running

9. (23) Santino Ferrucci, United States, 110 laps.

Running

10. (7) Charlie Kimball, Britain, 110 laps.

Running

11. (3) Spencer Pigot, United States, 110 laps.

Running

12. (10) Graham Rahal, United States, 109 laps.

Running

13. (7) Marco Andretti, United States, 109 laps.

Running

14. (18) Sébastien Bourdais, France, 109 laps.

Running

15. (21) Tony Kanaan, Brazil, 109 laps.

Running

16. (24) Max Chilton, Britain, 109 laps.

Running

17. (5) Charlie Kimball, United States, 109 laps.

Running

18. (12) Ben Hanley, Britain, 108 laps.

Running

19. (20) Takuma Sato, Japan, 75 laps.

Mechanical

20. (18) Marcus Ericsson, Sweden, 54 laps.

Mechanical

21. (15) Ed Jones, Britain, 25 laps.

Contact

22. (22) Matheus Leist, Brazil, 25 laps.

Contact

23. (5) Ryan Hunter-Reay, United States, 19 laps.

Mechanical

24. (19) Sébastien Bourdais, France, 11 laps.

Mechanical

Race Statistics

Average Speed of Race Winner: 95.572 mph.

Time of Race: 2:04:18.258.

Margin of Victory: 0.3998 seconds.

Cautions: For 11 laps.

Lead Changes: 8 among 4 drivers.

Lead, Laps Led: 4 drivers for 1 lap.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Top 25 roundup

Houston gets by Cincinnati

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Corey Davis Jr. scored a career-high 31 points Sunday, and No. 12 Houston dominated the second half for an 85-69 victory over No. 20 Cincinnati that clinched the American Athletic Conference's regular-season title outright.

The Cougars (29-2, 16-2) knocked off the defending champs and earned their first league title since 1992 in the Southwest Conference. Their 29 regular-season wins are a school record.

Down by six early in the second half, Nate Hinton hit back-to-back threes that started a 35-12 spurt. Davis' back-to-back threes put the Cougars up by 17 points and sent Cincinnati fans headed for the exits with 4:22 to go.

Last year, the Bearcats (25-6, 14-4) won the regular-season title and the AAC Tournament, beating Houston in the title game. This time, the Cougars swept the season series, winning in Cincinnati for the first time after 16 losses.

Jarron Cumberland scored 20 points for Cincinnati.

No. 21 Wisconsin 73, Ohio State 67 (OT): Khalil Iverson had a career-high 22 points and 14 rebounds as Wisconsin survived Ohio State's second-half rally.

Wisconsin (22-9, 14-6) led by as many as 23 points early in the second half. But Ohio State (18-13, 8-12) outscored the Badgers 27-5 over the last seven minutes of regulation to force overtime.

No. 22 Wofford 81, ETSU 72: Fletcher Magee made six three-pointers and scored 26 points, Cam-



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Houston's Corey Davis Jr., left, drives past Cincinnati's Rashawn Fredericks in the second half Sunday in Cincinnati. Houston won 85-69.

eron Jackson added 20 points and seven rebounds, and Wofford beat East Tennessee State to advance to the Southern Conference championship game.

Magee, the Southern Conference player of the year, made 10 of 14 shots from the field and 6 of 7 from three-point range, including two on which he twisted almost 180 degrees in the air to get the shot off. Jackson finished 9-for-12 from the floor and was dominant in the second half for the Terriers (28-4).

Top 25 rewind

Shared conference titles abound

By AARON BEARD
Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — A full regular-season schedule didn't provide a clear answer as to who is the best team in the majority of the power conferences.

No. 2 Virginia and No. 3 North Carolina ended up sharing the Atlantic Coast Conference's regular-season championship. No. 9 Michigan State and No. 11 Purdue split the Big Ten. And in the Big 12, No. 8 Texas Tech and No. 18 Kansas State finished atop the league standings to end No. 13 Kansas' run at the top.

Of the five power conferences, only No. 10 LSU in the Southeastern Conference and Washington in the Pac-12 ended up winning their league races outright.

That was a departure from the previous three years, which had seen the power conferences generally end the regular season with only one team at the top. In each of the past three years, only one of those five leagues ended up with a shared championship.

And that could make it a bit tougher to predict which team ends up earning their conference's automatic NCAA Tournament bid by winning the league tournament in the week ahead.

Cavs and Heels: The Cavaliers (28-2, 16-2 ACC) clinched the top seed in the ACC Tournament by beating Louisville on Saturday afternoon, while the Tar Heels (26-5, 16-2) ended up as the No. 2 seed after earning their first regular-season sweep of No. 4 Duke



GERRY BROOME/AP

Injured Duke player Zion Williamson sits on the bench Saturday against North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C.

in a decade later that evening.

And now, either Virginia or UNC has won the ACC regular-season crown for six straight seasons. In that span, the Cavaliers have won three outright titles (2014, 2015 and 2018) while the Tar Heels have won two (2016 and 2017).

This year's title marks the first shared regular-season title in the ACC since Duke and Maryland (now in the Big Ten) split it in 2010.

Zion's health: Speaking of Duke, the Blue Devils (26-5, 14-4) appear closer to getting freshman star Zion Williamson back from a knee sprain that has sidelined him for nearly six full games.

Coch Mike Krzyzewski said Friday that the 6-foot-7, 285-pound Williamson had gotten his "first really good workout" on Thursday and now had to improve his conditioning while get-

ting used to contact again.

That test will come Monday, and Krzyzewski sounds optimistic the candidate for national player of the year will be ready for Thursday's quarterfinals in the ACC Tournament.

"Hopefully we'll get a couple of good days of practice there before he can play 5-on-5, and then we'll see how that goes," Krzyzewski said after the UNC loss. "The way he looks right now, I think it's just a matter of getting in shape, getting in game shape and going forward."

Spartans persevere: Michigan State (25-6, 16-4 Big Ten) has been down to two top players in Nick Ward and Joshua Langford because of injuries. Yet Cassius Winston and the Spartans keep winning, beating seventh-ranked Michigan on Saturday to sweep the Wolverines.

That put them in a tie with the Boilermakers (23-8, 16-4), who lost at Minnesota earlier to square a shot at the outright crown.

It marked the first time the Big Ten had a tie at the top since Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State did it in 2012.

LSU's title: In the SEC, LSU (26-5, 16-2) beat Florida in overtime and then beat Vanderbilt to capture that program's first regular-season title in a decade.

Saturday's win against the Commodores came with coach Will Wade suspended indefinitely after reports of a wire-tapped phone call between Wade and a man convicted last year in the federal investigation into corruption within the sport.

Scoreboard

Sunday's men's scores

EAST	SOUTH
Penn St. 72, Illinois 55	SMU 77, South Florida 71
UConn 66, Connecticut 73	MIDWEST
Houston 85, Cincinnati 69	Indiana 89, Iowa 70
Nebraska 93, Iowa 91, OT	Wisconsin 73, Ohio St. 67, OT

Men's conference tournaments

America East Conference At Charlotte, N.C.

Sam M. Maccari

Tuesday, March 12

Binghamton at Vermont

Harvard at Albany

Atlantic Coast Conference At Charlotte, N.C.

Ford Robins

Tuesday, March 12

Miami vs. Wake Forest

Georgia Tech vs. Notre Dame

Boston College vs. Pittsburgh

Second Round

Wednesday, March 13

N.C. State vs. Clemson

Virginia Tech vs. Miami/Wake Forest

Louisville vs. Boston College/Virginia

Syracuse vs. BC/Pittsburgh

Atlantic Sun Conference

Sunday, March 10

Liberty 47, Lipscomb 68

Atlantic 10 Conference

At the Barclays Center

New York

First Round

Wednesday, March 13

George Washington vs. UMass

Rhode Island vs. George Mason

George Washington

Second Round

Thursday, March 14

Rhode Island vs. Saint Louis

George Washington

WAC (missed)

Duquesne vs. Saint Joseph's

Saint Louis vs. Richmond/Fordham r

Big East Conference

At the Mohegan Sun

First Round

Wednesday, March 13

Providence vs. St. John's

DePaul vs. Seton Hall

Quartet

Thursday, March 14

Villanova vs. Providence-Butler

Xavier vs. Creighton

Marquette vs. St. John's

Seton Hall vs. Georgetown

Big 12 Conference At the Idaho

First Round

Wednesday, March 13

Northern Arizona vs. Sacramento State

Southwestern Conference At Idaho

First Round

Wednesday, March 13

Southern Utah vs. Idaho State

Montana State vs. Idaho

Big 12 Conference

At the Brooklyn Bridge

First Round

Wednesday, March 13

Arkansas vs. Oklahoma

Oklahoma vs. West Virginia

Quarterfinals

Thursday, March 14

Baylor vs. TCU

Kansas State vs. TCU-Oklahoma State

Texas Tech vs. Oklahoma-West Virginia

Finals

Friday, March 15

SEC

At the Bridgestone Arena

First Round

Wednesday, March 13

Alabama vs. Kentucky

Missouri vs. Tennessee

Second Round

Thursday, March 14

Florida vs. Auburn

Auburn vs. Missouri-Georgia

Mississippi vs. Alabama

Mississippi State vs. Texas A&M-Vanderbilt

Southern Conference At Asheville, N.C.

First Round

Wednesday, March 13

Missouri vs. Georgia

Texas A&M vs. Vanderbilt

Second Round

Thursday, March 14

Florida vs. Auburn

Auburn vs. Missouri-Georgia

Mississippi vs. Alabama

Mississippi State vs. Texas A&M-Vanderbilt

Southern Conference At Asheville, N.C.

Finals

Wednesday, March 13

Wofford 66, Furman 65

Championship

Monday, March 11

Wofford vs. UNC-Greensboro

Second Round

At the AT&T Center

First Round

Wednesday, March 13

Lamar vs. Houston Baptist

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi vs. Central Arkansas

Southwestern Athletic Conference

First Round

Tuesday, March 12

Arkansas-Pine Bluff at Grambling State

Second Round

Alcorn State at Prairie View A&M

Alabama State at Jackson State

Southwestern Athletic Conference

First Round

Tuesday, March 12

Arkansas-Pine Bluff at Grambling State

Second Round

At Sioux Falls, S.D.

Finals

Monday, March 11

Western Illinois vs. North Dakota St.

Omaha vs. Fort Wayne

Championship

Tuesday, March 12

Semifinals

Sun Belt Conference

First Round

Tuesday, March 12

Arkansas State at South Alabama

Appalachian St. at Louisiana-Monroe

Second Round

Wednesday, March 13

Western Illinois vs. South Alabama

Arkansas State at South Alabama

Championship

Wednesday, March 13

Pepperdine 89, San Francisco 72

Finals

San Diego 80, Pepperdine

Semifinals

Monday, March 11

Gonzaga 88, Saint Mary's 73

Championship

Tuesday, March 12

Semifinal winners

Western Athletic Conference

First Round

Wednesday, March 13

New Mexico vs. Chicago State

Tar Heel Valley vs. Cal State

Bakersfield vs. UMKC

Second Round

Thursday, March 14

Western Athletic Conference

First Round

Wednesday, March 13

Arkansas vs. Cal State

Second Round

Thursday, March 14

Arkansas vs. Cal State

Championship

Friday, March 15

Grand Canyon vs. Seattle

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Bradley's Koch Bar, left, and Elijah Childs celebrate as the final horn sounds in the championship of the Missouri Valley Conference tournament, Sunday. Bradley beat Northern Iowa 57-54.

Bradley rallies from 18-point deficit for Missouri Valley title

By STEVE OVERBEY
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — A huge rally by Bradley resulted in quite a reward — its first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 2006.

Down by 18 points with 17 minutes left, Elijah Childs and the Braves surged past Northern Iowa 57-54 Sunday in the Missouri Valley Conference championship game.

"You can't make this up," Childs said. "We rode the wave and did the course."

Childs scored 16 points and Dwayne Lautier-Ogunkoya added 13 for fifth-seeded Bradley (20-14).

The Braves advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the ninth time overall — in their last appearance, as a 13th seed, they beat Kansas and Pittsburgh before losing to Memphis.

Bradley trailed 35-17 before breaking loose. The Braves used a 12-0 run to get close.

Lugman Lundy had 11 points and eight rebounds as Bradley won the MVC Tournament title for the first time since 1988.

"I knew we would make plays eventually," Lundy said.

Added Childs, "We kept our composure, stayed aggressive. If they let us get those same shots we knew they'd fall."

AJ Green led sixth-seeded Northern Iowa (16-18) with 23 points.

The Panthers took a 48-41 lead on Green's jumper with just over six minutes left. Bradley closed the game on a 16-6 run over the final 5:58.

Childs started the comeback with a short jumper. Lautier-

Ogunkoya brought the Braves to within 49-48 with a three-pointer. He then put his team in front to stay with four successive free throws after a dead ball foul against Luke McDonnell led to a four-point play.

Northern Iowa had a chance to go in front, but Green missed a jumper with five seconds left. Lautier-Ogunkoya made two foul shots three seconds later.

"[This] was kind of our year summed up in one game," Bradley coach Brian Wardle said. "Staying together, persevering, holding each other accountable. This was a player-led team, not a coach-led team."

Bradley had separate stretches of nearly nine minutes and more than six minutes where it didn't score in the first half, but hit 15 of 26 shots after the break.

Bradley claimed its third MVC crown to go with titles in 1980 and 1988. The Braves hit the 20-win mark for the 27th time in school history and second in a row.

Northern Iowa was on the way to its ninth NCAA Tournament appearance when it took a 38-28 lead midway through the final half.

"Their offense was just better than our defense in that four, five-minute stretch," Northern Iowa coach Ben Jacobson said. "They had some guys hit some big shots."

Explained Green, "The first half was great, we were playing hard, defending. [But] it takes the whole 40 minutes in order to come away with the win."

Bradley had lost its previous three MVC title games in 1996, 2001 and 2006.

The Braves are headed to the NCAA Tournament after winning nine of their last 11 games.

You can't make this up. We rode the wave and did the course. ,

Elijah Childs
Bradley player

Flames douse heartbreak, top Lipscomb in ASUN final

By TERESA M. WALKER

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Liberty Flames didn't talk about missing the NCAA Tournament a year ago on a buzzer-beating three-pointer. Instead, playing again for an automatic berth, junior guard Caleb Homesley wouldn't let them forget.

Scottie James' layup with 5.5 seconds left put Liberty ahead to stay and the Flames capped their first season in a new conference by topping Lipscomb 74-68 Sunday for the ASUN Tournament championship and their first NCAA Tournament trip since 2013.

The win was sweet redemption a year after losing the Big South Conference tournament final at the last second. Homesley insisted that loss to Radford wasn't mentioned before this final.

"But there were times in this game where I kind of rallied the guys together when they would go on a run and just say, 'Let's finish the game. Let's do the hard little things,'" Homesley said. "And I think that it really caught on to do the stretch that we had through the end of the game."

Liberty pulled off a big win at the biggest crowd ever to see a game at Allen Arena, and this thriller featured 18 lead changes in the second half. The Flames won for the second time this season on Lipscomb's home court.

"I'm so proud of our guys the way we weathered the storm," Liberty coach Ritchie McKay said. "I think this is just one of those games that you need a break or two down the stretch, and we were fortunate to get one."

Liberty (28-6) switched to the ASUN Conference for this season and split the regular season title with Lipscomb. The Flames earned their fourth NCAA Tournament bid overall and first since playing in the Big South.

The Flames were up 29-28 at halftime and never led by more than four until the final seconds.

Garrison Mathews, the ASUN player of the year, made a pair of free throws with 1:31 left to give Lipscomb its last lead at 66-65. James then scored, and Georgie Pacheco-Ortiz hit a three with 14.8 seconds remaining for a 70-65 lead. James added two free throws with 8.4 seconds, and Homesley finished it off with two more with a second on the clock.

That started the celebration with senior Lowell Cabilio Jr. and Pacheco-Ortiz on their knees pounding the court before being smothered by their teammates.

Gardner-Webb earns first NCAA bid

By HANK KURZ JR.
Associated Press

RADFORD, Va. — DJ Laster's best game ensured it wouldn't be his last.

Laster scored a career-high 32 points and Gardner-Webb took command with a first-half run and beat Radford 76-65 on Sunday to win the Big South Tournament championship and earn its first trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Laster was dominant throughout, making 14 of 17 shots and grabbing six rebounds.

"I just knew I had to play hard, needed to play hard," he said, a piece of the championship net stuck inside the adjustable strap on his championship cap. "I just wanted to leave my legacy on the court, leave it all out there, so I just came with that mindset from the jump ball."

Laster had 30 of the Runnin' Bulldogs' first 44 points, including the last five during a 12-0 first-half run and seven during a 13-5 second-half run that gave them a 46-33 lead.

"I just felt I couldn't miss," Laster said.

It seemed that way to the Highlanders, too.

"He just dominated the paint and his teammates got him the ball is good positions," said Ed Polite Jr., the Big South defensive player of the year. Once he



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Liberty's Caleb Homesley, left, and Elijah Cuffee celebrate in the final seconds of their win over Lipscomb in the Atlantic Sun tournament championship game on Sunday.

James led Liberty with 17 points. Pacheco-Ortiz added 16, Cabilio had 14 and Homesley 11.

Lipscomb (25-7) was trying to seal its second NCAA Tournament berth.

"They've had an incredible year," McKay said of Lipscomb. "I think they're NCAA Tournament large worthy, and I'm not just saying that because they're in the same league. Having been at Virginia for six years, I know what an NCAA Tournament team looks like and that's one of them."

got hot and gained confidence, it was hard to take that from him."

Gardner-Webb (23-11) saw its lead shrink to five several times, but each time it scored the next points to hold off the Highlanders. The first time, Jose Perez fed Laster inside for a bucket. Then David Eflinayai hit a jumper. Then Jose Perez hit one of the Bulldogs' five three-pointers.

Donald Hicks had 17 points, Polite 15 and Carlik Jones 14 for Radford (22-11), which was trying to win its fourth conference title and seeking a repeat of last season, when it followed a dramatic championship victory with its first win in an NCAA Tournament game.

The Highlanders never fully recovered after going scoreless for 8:08 in the first half as the Bulldogs built a 20-7 lead. They closed to within five by halftime and again in the second half but couldn't stop the fourth-seeded Bulldogs, who earned their spot in the championship by knocking off top-seed Campbell on Friday night.

"They were locked in," said Radford coach Mike Jones, whose team beat Gardner-Webb 75-58 during the season. "They set the tone right from the beginning. They established Laster right from the beginning and it was hard to shut that water off once it started running."

SPORTS



Mounting Madness

Liberty, Bradley, Gardner-Webb
secure bids » **College Hoops, Page 31**

MLB

Far from DONE

Reclamation projects abound
at big league spring training

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

Kyle Zimmer remembers the feeling of failure and frustration that washed over him while standing on the mound in spring training, his fastball topping out at 82 mph and his arm feeling as if it was flying to home plate right along with the ball.

The fifth pick of the Kansas City Royals in the 2012 draft had gone through elbow surgery. Biceps tendinitis. Shoulder surgery. Thoracic outlet surgery. More shoulder soreness and fatigue.

Standing on a mound? He might as well have been standing in a hospital. He'd seen plenty of them.

SEE DONE ON PAGE 29

The Royals' Kyle Zimmer, back, and Bubba Starling, front, were both once high draft picks. Now they're fighting just to earn a spot on a major league roster.

AP photos

Kyle Busch completes weekend sweep » **Auto Racing, Page 28**



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